The Spectator

FOR THE

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

PEACE has been officially announced in this country, though not proclaimed. The treaty is to take effect from the date of its signature, although it is not ratified, nor published, nor indeed completed. It is not published for form's sake; the form in this case having a substantial validity. Although the understanding between the contracting powers appears to be complete, it was of course peremptorily requisite that the text of the treaty should be submitted to each sovereign before its issue to the world; yet the object of a complete pacification was sufficiently pressing to act upon it at once. There is the less haste for the text, since, unless some deception has been used, it does but fulfil the conditions that had already been developed to the public in the Austrian propositions. The postponement of essential parts of the treaty, to be handled in a species of appendix as it were, is a peculiar proceeding, also justified probably by the peculiar circumstances. It is, for example, understood, that the manner of arranging the Moldo-Wallachian Principalities is left to the Conference still sitting after the signature of the treaty; which has only substituted the collective guarantee of all the Powers for the single protectorate of Russia, and has stipulated that any arrangement shall proceed upon the peremptory basis that in no degree shall the integrity of the Sultan's dominions be infringed.

According to reports which we have some reason to regard as well-founded, the chief members of the Conference succeeded in retaining for each state the place which it naturally took on the strength of its antecedents. Prussia was admitted to sign the treaty; Austria was less an arbiter than a spectator; the preamble of the treaty recognizes the good offices of the French Emperor as mainly conducing to the agreement; the minutes will attest the leading position taken by Lord Clarendon, whose ability in the discussions was acknowledged on all sides, and who was the author of the allusion to the Emperor Napoleon; Russia is admitted to have joined in the compact less as a conquered Power than as a voluntary coadjutor, without attaint to her honour and dignity; the independence of Turkey is maintained by guarantee; special invitations assigned a peculiar prominence to the diplomatic representatives of Sardinia. It needs no comment to point out the political force of these formal facts; or the studied preparation for ulterior events which they indicate.

The reception of the news in France and in England has been appropriate to the national characteristics, and to the relative positions of the two Governments. Paris illuminated: Napoleon has acquired new guarantees, indorsed by all the Powers, Russia included; and Paris illuminated, as officially bound. Our illumination is deferred to the time when the formal ratifications shall reach us. The English people have received the news of peace with a certain expression of thankfulness for the blessing; but their manner confesses that they would not have regretted if another year of war had enabled us to use our fine armaments, which we are now compelled to lay aside in great part unused, leaving the balance of demonstrated achievement to our comrades the French; whose official writers, and official ceremonies, make the most of the difference. Notwithstanding the prospect of extended prosperity with returning peace, the self-gratulation of our countrymen is peculiarly sober; but they gladly listen to any assurances that their public men have done their duty, and that the peace will be safe, honourable, and enduring.

The Conference, it is stated, now sits to consider propositions on subjects not included in the terms of its original summons. It has become, to use the phrase of a French writer, a tribunal of European public law, charged with the duty of informing itself on the situation of Europe, and required to mark that which may become, hereafter, a new subject of conflict if not of war. It has, of course, required the coöperation of Russia in particular to permit such an adaptation of the existing Conference to new purposes. We say of Russia, because some of the proceedings must run counter to the feelings if not to the very conduct of Austria at the present moment, and, probably, to the views of Prussia. Yet that something of the kind has taken place, is stated by many good witnesses, and confirmed by the circumstances; and we had been prepared for it by reports in different capitals—in London and Turin as well as in Paris. Among the subjects which have been thus discusssd, is the complete freedom of the Danube, leaving to the states on its banks no exclusive privileges, but throwing its waters open to all the world. Austria had made the opportunity for this proposal, by always professing, in her assurances to the German states, that she sought to emancipate the Danube for others, and not for herself alone.

The people of Piedmont have been led by their own representatives to expect that valuable recognitions, if not concessions, would be obtained from the Conference—something more than admission to privileges in the Black Sea. But it is said that the state of Italy has been formally laid before the Conference by Sardinia, on the invitation of the Western Powers. The constant struggle which certain Governments maintain against popular parties in Italy is said to be the subject of these representations. But in those struggles the Governments of Central and Southern Italy are even now abetted by Austria: as we reported last week, the Austrian Government backs that of Parma, or rather acts as the substitute for the Government of Parma, in a chronic battle with the popular party of that state. An outbreak at Padua, headed by students, exhibits the popular party of Italy as acting against Austria upon her own territory, with herself as the direct antagonist in the same perpetual warfare. The power of the Conference to entertain these subjects at all has been discussed, and it appears to have resulted in a determination to return to the debate. This establishes the position of Russia as acting with the Western Powers, and in some degree counter to the influences of Austria. The reports respecting these ulterior proceedings are far too vague and too little authenticated to be the ground of any speculation whatever: but they account for the continued presence of Lord Clarendon in Paris, and excite a just interest, which seems likely to excel that created by the remains of the Oriental question.

On reassembling after Easter, Parliament found that much of its most interesting discussion was cut away by the conclusion of the peace, and further suspended by the suspense in the publication of the treaty. We can have no effectual interpellations before the illuminations; so both Houses have turned themselves to questions of practical improvement. The Commons began with Sir George Grey's Bill for the reform of the City of London Corporation,—an entirely new scheme: it is simple and ingenious, and seems likely to be carried. The measure may be described superficially as a compromise between the conservation and the entire abolition of the old Corporation. One course might have been to abolish the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council, and the whole aristocracy of the City, and to make the region within the walls only one of the Metropolitan districts. Another course might have been, to preserve the Mayoralty as it was, with much of its ancient machinery; to substitute for its antiquated courts, without any modern function, fresh duties that have been committed to the Board of Works; to extend the Corporation to the whole of the Metropolis, and so to give a modern

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reality, a useful working, to the ancient form. The course taken is between those two, in the sense that neither one is really followed. London City is not merged in the rest of the Metropolitan districts, but is kept as a distinct Corporation. The number of its Aldermen and Common Councillors, however, is reduced until it is about fifty per cent larger than the number of the same officers in the provincial boroughs. In like manner, the position of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors, is assimilated to that of their provincial brethren; only the Recorder is retained, with other officers and their old titles; and the Corporation continues until 1862 trustee for the expenditure of the coal-duties. But the street-duties, the exclusive right of trading for Liverymen, other privileges of the liveried Companies, and some of the City courts, are abolished. The Lord Mayor and Aldermen will no longer take their seats on the bench of the Central Criminal Court; they become but the chiefs of a borough corporation, established as it were by accident in the midst of the British metropolis,—a new corporation on an old site, isolated, and more modern than the modern Board of Works. It would seem from the introduction of this measure, that there is jealousy in the Houses of Parliament, and in the public departments of Westminster, against establishing an incorporation for the whole Metropolis. There is a fear that it should become an Empire city—a municipal state whose Lord Mayor and Common Council might almost rival Sovereign and Parliament. The Corporation of this great city, therefore, has, taking all the new arrangements together, been divided between several bodies: the City Corporation retains the Mansionhouse and some of the old jurisdiction within a narrow circle; the Board of Works has the lighting and paving jurisdiction; the Police Commissioners have the police jurisdiction. So the Metropolis is still an aggregate of separate parts and isolated powers.

Mr. Headlam's Medical Reform Bill encounters formidable opposition. The qualification for the Council, it is said, is not high enough; and the central assembly, which would represent the existing bodies and the profession at large, is suspected as likely to include men that would lower the standard of acquirement in the profession. Such is the main complaint advanced against it. Now, in the medical profession, of all others, it may be said that no separate section of it, nor the most distinguished individual professors, can possess that knowledge and that judgment which reside in the entire mass of the profession. The magnates study parts of a vast subject, but the whole body of English medical men knows as much as is to be known in medicine. It is a body composed of persons who are upon the whole very far above the average in understanding and acquirements. It happens that they are lively in their jealousies, and much actuated by what we may call party feeling. They will necessarily be divided; each party will strive to put forward the best candidates that it can find; and in the competition of parties, we are persuaded, the very highest of the members of the profession would be advanced and elected as its representatives. There is, however, a less distinctly avowed reason for the opposition. The profession at large wishes some such measure, and likes the scheme in its general characteristics; but each section, with its central head in London, Edinburgh, or elsewhere, desires to retain its own special privileges, such as it wishes other sections of the profession to waive in order to obtain greater uniformity and freedom. All desire the scheme in general, but each part in turn wishes some part of it excluded; so that the result would be the expunging of the parts by all the sections in turn. Now, a whole consists of its parts; and Mr. Headlam is called upon to solve the problem, how he is to carry a bill consisting entirely of omitted clauses.

Colonel Wilson Patten's bill to place running gear in the same relation to compulsory fencing as the standing machinery of factories, appears to us to be a sensible emendation of the statute-book. We do not side with those who would leave the fencing of the machinery to the voluntary action of the millowners. Interference may be vexatious; but we know that a petty parsimony will permit men to indulge in wicked negligence. The accidents which occur in factories are so shocking, that even if they happen seldom, they ought to be rendered impossible. Circumstances, however, ought to be considered in compelling a millowner to apply fences; for no general rule can define the exact necessity or expediency of each case. Nor is there any distinction between the running gear and the standing machinery which should subject standing machinery to arbitration and running gear to inflexible rule. Mr. Wilson Patten would render the running gear equally open to arbitration; and in the refusal, by a large majority, to adjourn the second reading of his measure, the House of Commons affirmed the common sense of the proposition.

Mr. Roebuck has brought forward two complaints against the working of the existing County Courts Act with reference to the salary of the Judges. He complains that the Executive is left to determine whether the salary of each Judge shall be 1200*l.* or 1500*l.* a year; and that his brother-in-law, Mr. Falconer, had been deprived of the increased salary until a motion of Mr. Roebuck's had been withdrawn from the notice-paper of the House of Commons. A clear case of corruption—of coercing Judges through Parliamentary coöperation! The personal charge, however, failed. Mr. Roebuck's notice announced a motion upon the very subject; and there is much force in the reply of Ministers, that they hesitated to disclose their previous determination in favour of Mr. Falconer while Mr. Roebuck's motion hung over their heads. The arrangement which left the determination of salaries to the Executive is very bad. They found no proper test for determining the ratio, for the accidental amount of gross work performed is a very indifferent test, and all meddling of the Executive with such a matter is most objectionable. A bill to correct the error is in progress through Parliament. In the course of the debate, however, it came out that the new system of County Courts, first proposed by Lord Brougham more than twenty years ago, has had a complete, large, and still increasing success. The new Courts, with their cheap forms, accessibility, and prompt justice, are gradually taking away the civil business from the Judges of Assize. Handsome salaries for the Judges who fulfil duties so important and so constantly increasing are an essential; and the Executive ought to be entirely exonerated from any responsibility in the payment of Judges' salaries.

As nobody else made the first move in Parliament, Mr. Scott undertook to bring the House of Commons to the question of the treatment of convicts. He moved for an inquiry into the Act of 1853, as a step towards the renewal of transportation to the Colonies. The subject itself was little debated, but the scope of the inquiry was discussed with much earnestness; and the debate resulted in so adjusting the terms that we are likely to have a review of the whole subject,—the proportion of grave offences to the increase of the population, the effect of our present severer punishments, the state of our convict-dépots, the working of tickets-of-leave, and the practicability of any other improvements; not excluding, of course, the renewal of transportation, *if* that be practicable. Now then is the time for those who have occupied themselves in studying the subject, to lay their case, through the Select Committee, before Parliament and the public. We need not say how important it is that all who have a real case to present should bestow the larger part of their labour in relieving their proposal and its evidences from extraneous encumbrances. For it is usually the extraneous encumbrances that prevent the acceptance of any really strong case. There is great labour involved in such a process; but the advocates of reforms in our severer punishments are put upon their mettle.

The House of Lords has transacted comparatively little business that has called for discussion. One Peer, indeed, continues to show what the Members of either House may do who devote themselves to the special study of practical subjects. Lord Albemarle is one of the most meritorious public men in this respect. Not taking a conspicuous place in any party, he selects a few subjects for his immediate attention; thoroughly examines them; and, whether it is some questionable influence of Prussian trade, or a gross abuse of authority in India, he contrives, by dint of a conscientious and workmanlike treatment of his subject, to lay it before Parliament and the public in a highly-compressed and lucid form. This week, he only moved for returns on the subject of torture in Madras; but a brief statement, condensed into a single column of the morning papers, will be recognized as expediting the extinction of that intolerable abuse to which the natives cling, while some few degenerate Europeans do not discourage them.

The Revenue-accounts are backed by the Trade and Navigation accounts in setting forth "the continued prosperity of the country." Increase is the general characteristic of the revenue, with a total for the quarter of 1,477,000*l.*, for the year of 4,497,000*l.* It is true that this increase is in part due to augmented taxation; but equally true that increased taxation does not always end in increased revenue. The Trade returns for the first two months of the present year show a steady increase in exports over 1855, of 4,200,000*l.*, or, allowing for the five days, nearer 4,250,000*l.*; the amounts exceeding those for 1854—the last months of peace save one. We begin now where we left off then.

Two incidents of the most opposite kind call attention to the condition of our American relations. General Walker has confiscated a charter granted by the Government of Nicaragua, we believe, to a company got up in the United States for carrying on a transit across the neck of land, chiefly with a view to the communication between New York, New Orleans, and California.

The company has been extremely successful, although it started almost without capital, and has got along entirely upon its earnings. A squabble within the company threatened to end in its being sold, by its own managers, to a rival enterprise; and the shareholders have procured Walker to confiscate the charter, with a view of renewing it to themselves. It is probable that they have diverted to his uses some of their funds. This is a new local complication in the Penelope's web of the Central American question; and it is not at all disentangled by the alliance of four of the Central American states against the military adventurer who acts as sovereign of Nicaragua, and provokes the subjects of Sardinia and France to claim protection from their Governments, as well as those who have already appealed to London and Washington. The report of the new imbroglio reaches us just at a time when serious apprehensions have been created by the latest reports on the state of our relations officially. The speech of Mr. Baxter at Dundee comes as a memento to remind those who are responsible for the conduct of our public affairs, that the commercial community of this country is not prepared to tolerate any dallyings with the preliminaries of war, which might set us "drifting" into hostilities Westward as soon as we have concluded peace Eastward.

Debates and Proceedings in Parliament.

PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OF THE WEEK.

House of Lords. *Tuesday*, April 1. The Treaty of Peace; Lord Clarendon's Absence.

Thursday, April 3. Torture in India; Lord Albemarle's Motion.

Friday, April 4. Agricultural Statistics; Lord Stanley of Alderley's Bill committed.

House of Commons. *Monday*, March 31. The Treaty of Peace; Lord Palmerston's Statement—Supply; Civil Service Estimates—Vaccination Bill read a second time—Reformatory and Industrial Schools; Sir S. Northcote's Bill read a first time.

Tuesday, April 1. County Court Judges; Mr. Roebuck's Motion—London Corporation; Sir George Grey's Bill read a first time—Scotch and Irish Paupers' Removal; Mr. Bouverie's Bill read a first time.

Wednesday, April 2. Medical Profession; Mr. Headlam's Bill; Committee postponed—Factories; Colonel Patten's Bill, debate on second reading.

Thursday, April 3. Russian Blockade; Lord Palmerston's Statement—Transportation; Mr. Scott's Motion—Specialty and Simple Contract Debts; Mr. Malins's Bill read a first time—Drafts on Bankers; Mr. Pellatt's Bill read a second time—Factories; Colonel Patten's Bill read a second time—Joint-Stock Banks; Sir John Shelley's Bill read a first time—Poor-law Amendment; Mr. Bouverie's Bill read a first time—Fire-Insurance; the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Bill read a first time.

Friday, April 4. Central America; Lord Goderich's Question—Siege of Acre; Sir James Graham and Sir Charles Napier—Supply; Civil Service Estimates—Joint-Stock Companies; Mr. Lowe's Bill committed pro formâ.

TIME-TABLE.

The Lords.

	Hour of Meeting.	Hour of Adjournment.
Monday	No sitting.	
Tuesday	5h	5h 25m
Wednesday	No sitting.	
Thursday	5h	5h 50m
Friday	5h	8h 30m
Sittings this Week,	3; Time,	4h 45m
—— this Session,	31; —	63h 5m

The Commons.

	Hour of Meeting.	Hour of Adjournment.
Monday	4h	(m) 1h 45m
Tuesday	4h	9h 30m
Wednesday	Noon	6h 0m
Thursday	4h	12h 0m
Friday	4h	(m) 12h 45m
Sittings this Week,	5; Time,	36h 0m
—— this Session,	36; —	241h 30m

Announcement of Peace.

The House of Commons reassembled on Monday in the full expectation that the Premier would come down and officially announce the signing of the treaty of Paris before the set business of the evening began. At half-past four the Clerk called the order of the day for "Supply"; the motion of Mr. Wilson that "the Speaker do leave the chair" was instantly carried, followed by some laughter; and the House went into Committee of Supply. Shortly afterwards, Lord Palmerston entered the House, and took his seat on the Treasury bench. The business of voting money proceeded for some time, the Premier making no attempt to interrupt its course. At length Mr. French moved that the Chairman should report progress, for the purpose of eliciting a declaration from the Premier. That war should be concluded, and that her Majesty's Minister should not inform the House, was without precedent. If Lord Palmerston did not think it worth his while to make the announcement of the treaty of peace after the House had gone into Committee of Supply, it would only have been decent and respectful to the House if his colleagues had waited a few minutes until he arrived.

Thus pointedly called up, Lord Palmerston rose, and spoke to the following effect—

"Sir, I was in the House not three minutes after the half-hour, which is usually the time for notices of motion being given and questions being put. There were notices of motion previous to going into Committee of Supply, and there were also notices of questions; and I was as much surprised as other Members could be to find the House in Committee of Supply at so unusually early an hour. If I had come down to the House three minutes sooner, I should have made a statement which I am quite prepared now to make. It is a very short one, and will convey no information to the honourable Member beyond that which he already possesses. (*A laugh.*) If it be any satisfaction, however, to my honourable friend to be informed officially of that which he already knows individually, I shall have very great pleasure in enlightening his mind.

"The House is perfectly aware from the Gazette, that yesterday, at two o'clock, a treaty of peace was signed at Paris. The House will have seen by the announcement in the Gazette that it was determined by the Congress that the particular conditions of the treaty should not be made public until the ratifications had been exchanged. And that, indeed, is the usual course, for it is a mark of obvious deference to the Powers who are parties to the treaty. At the same time, without going into any details of the conditions, the main substance of which is already known to all the world, because it has been embodied in protocols and published in every country in Europe, I may say at least that my conviction is, that that treaty of peace will be deemed satisfactory by this country and by Europe. (*Cheers.*) Sir, it will be found that the objects for which the war was undertaken have been fully accomplished. It will be found, that by the stipulations of that treaty the integrity and independence of the Turkish empire will be secured, as far as human arrangements can effect that purpose. (*Cheers.*) It will be found that that treaty is honourable to all the Powers who are contracting parties to it; and I trust that, while on the one hand it has put an end to a war which every friend to humanity must naturally have wished to see concluded, on the other hand it will lay the foundation of a peace which I trust, so far at least as regards the circumstances out of which the war began, will be lasting and enduring.

"Sir, during the negotiations which have led to this peace, I am happy to say that the same cordiality which has prevailed among the Allies in carrying on the war has also mainly contributed to the conclusion of peace, and that we shall leave off at the conclusion of this war in a stricter and closer alliance with them—and in a more extended alliance—than existed during the continuance of the war; and that, therefore, the future permanence not only of a good understanding but of an intimate connexion between the great Powers of Europe will have been cemented and strengthened by the communications that have taken place during the negotiations. Sir, I have nothing more to say, except that it must be gratifying to the country to know that nothing could exceed the ability with which the British negotiators have performed their arduous and difficult task during the negotiations; and that Lord Clarendon and Lord Cowley have not only maintained the honour, dignity, and interests of the country they represented, but by their conciliatory conduct have secured for themselves and their country the respect, esteem, and good-will of those with whom they had to do. (*Cheers.*) The ratifications are to be exchanged as soon as they can be received at Constantinople and St. Petersburg. The limitation of time has been four weeks, but I should hope that at least within three weeks the ratifications will be exchanged at Paris." (*Cheers.*)

The motion to report progress was then withdrawn, and the Committee went on with its business.

In the House of Lords, which reassembled on Tuesday, the proceedings respecting the signing the treaty of peace were of the briefest character. The Earl of Malmesbury, one minute before the time fixed for ordinary business, said he had been waiting to see whether her Majesty's Ministers had any announcement to make relative to the peace; and as that was not the case, he asked Lord Lansdowne when Lord Clarendon would return, as it would be inconvenient to bring forward the discussion relative to Kars in the absence of the Foreign Secretary?

The Marquis of Lansdowne said, that as all he could state on the subject of the peace was universally known, he hardly thought it necessary to make any statement; but he was ready to answer any questions to the best of his power. He could not say when Lord Clarendon would return to England.

No questions were asked, and the matter dropped.

The Russian Blockade.

On Thursday, in reply to Mr. Mitchell, Lord Palmerston stated, that on Wednesday "the Congress extended the armistice to sea as well as land; and as a matter of consequence, the blockades cease." But with regard to the question "whether, if the blockade were to cease at once, an arrangement had been made to enable British vessels to enter Russian ports for commercial purposes without risk of seizure?" that involved other considerations, and Lord Palmerston was not prepared with a reply.

The London Corporation Bill.

Sir George Grey obtained leave, on Tuesday, to bring in a bill for the better regulation of the Corporation of the City of London. Before he explained its provisions, he stated that the Government approached the subject with no unfriendly feelings towards that great body, which is entitled to be treated with all possible respect and consideration. Indeed, the object of the measure "is not to diminish the importance nor to impair the dignity of the Corporation, but by amending defects in its constitution and in the administration of its affairs, and by bringing it more into harmony with the spirit of recent municipal legislation, to increase its usefulness, to enhance its influence, and to render it better adapted to fulfil all the legitimate purposes of its existence." In dealing with the subject, he had the advantage of two elaborate and careful reports, one made in 1837, the other in 1853. The bill he was about to bring in was based mainly on the recommendations of the latter; and Sir George repeatedly referred to the report in describing the provisions in detail.

The bill leaves the boundaries of the City exactly as they are at present. Its general scope is, first, "to reform the constitution of the Corporation, and of some of the courts and jurisdictions within the City; secondly, to abolish customs now in force within the City which are injurious to trade and industry—customs which have been abolished in other corporate cities and towns by the Municipal Corporations Act; thirdly, to divest the corporate body of anomalous powers, of which, in the opinion of the Commissioners, some should cease altogether, while others should be transferred to bodies better qualified to exercise them." The main governing body will still consist of the Common Council, the Lord Mayor, and the Aldermen; but the several parts will be materially altered. The Wards will be reduced from twenty-six, their present number, to sixteen, and rendered more nearly equal in area and population. Each Ward will elect one Alderman and five Common Councilmen, making 96, instead of 232, the existing number of the Court of Common Council. The Aldermen will no longer be elected for life, but for six years; and one-half will triennially retire. The Common Councilmen will be elected annually: their qualification will be the same as in other corporations—possession of real or personal estate worth 1000*l.*, or rating to the amount of 30*l.*; the existing qualification of freedom being dispensed with. The voter will no longer be compelled to reside in or be free of the City. The Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, the Recorder, and other officers, now elected by the Court of Common Hall or Court of Aldermen, shall henceforth be elected by the Common Council. Any person shall be eligible for the office of Lord Mayor who is qualified to be a Common Councilman; and the same qualification to be required for Sheriffs and Auditors. The Court of Aldermen, as distinct from a Magisterial Court, will be abolished, and its powers transferred to the Common Council. The Court of Hustings will be abolished; and the Lord Mayor's Court and Sheriff's Court will be consolidated into one. The Recorder will be the sole Judge in the Lord Mayor's Court. The Lord Mayor and Aldermen will cease to form an essential part of the Central Criminal Court. The bill does not touch the Police, but it provides that the Aldermen shall no longer act as Police Magistrates; that the City shall be thrown into the Metropolitan Police district for the purposes of the Police-Courts Act, though not for purposes of police; and that either a new Police district shall be created consisting of the City, or that the City shall be thrown into the general Metropolitan district, so that criminal police-jurisdiction may be exercised by Stipendiary Magistrates. In fact, the Aldermen will be placed on precisely the same footing as the Middlesex Magistrates.

The bill, moreover, abolishes all exclusive right of trading; metage of grain, fruit, wares, and merchandise; and the monopoly of the porterage of grain and other measurable articles. The connexion between the City of London and Southwark is severed. As regards the coal-duties,

Government proposes that the penny and eightpenny duty shall not be renewed when they expire in 1862; and that the fourpenny duty shall be kept up only as long as may be necessary to liquidate the charge of 580,000*l.* now imposed upon it. It was proposed to transfer the coal-duties to the Metropolitan Board of Works: but Parliament has already given that Board great power to raise money; besides, such a transfer would leave the grievance of the imposition of the tax untouched. As regards the Conservancy of the Thames, it is proposed to take it away from the Corporation, and vest it in a Board, consisting of the First Lord of the Admiralty, the President of the Board of Trade, one of the Commissioners of Woods, and the Deputy Master of the Trinity House; and to transfer to that Board those tolls and dues which are now collected by the City, not as a source of revenue, but to meet the expenses of the Conservancy to the body in whom the conservancy of the river will in future be vested.

The bill was brought in, and read a first time.

County Court Judges.

Mr. Roebuck brought under the consideration of the House, on Tuesday, the question of remunerating the Judges of the County Courts. His motion was, that an address should be presented to the Queen, "praying her Majesty to give directions to the Lords of the Treasury, that hereafter, in order to maintain the dignity and independence of County Court Judges, each of those Judges be paid a salary permanently fixed at 1500*l.* per annum." He introduced the subject with a succinct history of the County Courts.

The person who first propounded to Parliament the establishment of these tribunals was Lord Brougham, to whom the country is so greatly indebted for his valuable labours in the cause of juridical reform. Lord Brougham, when Chancellor, proposed a bill for the purpose of establishing County Courts; but the opposition he then encountered proved too great, and it was reserved for the present Chairman of Ways and Means Committees [Mr. Fitzroy] to carry that desirable object into effect, which was ultimately achieved by the passing of the 9th and 10th of Victoria, chapter 95. That act gave these courts a jurisdiction up to 20*l.*, and directed the payment of fees to the Judges, with power for the Crown to grant salaries not exceeding 1200*l.* in lieu of fees. By the 10th and 11th of Victoria, chapter 102, jurisdiction in insolvency and protection cases was transferred from the Country Commissioners to the Judges of County Courts in the Country Circuits; and the Judges of those tribunals were declared incapable of sitting in Parliament. The 13th and 14th of Victoria, chapter 61, extended their jurisdiction to 50*l.*, and even, by the consent of the parties, to any amount, including the trial of title to real estates; and it also transferred to the Lords of the Treasury the power originally given to the Crown to direct payment of the salaries of these Judges. The 14th and 15th of Victoria, chapter 52, authorized the Judges of Country Circuits to grant warrants for the arrest of absconding debtors, on affidavit, for debts of any amount above 20*l.* The 14th and 15th of Victoria, chapter 100, empowered County Court Judges to direct the prosecution of witnesses for perjury, and to commit for trial in default of bail. The 15th and 16th of Victoria, chapter 54, while debarring these Judges from practising in their profession, provided that they should receive salaries not exceeding 1500*l.* nor less than 1200*l.* He cited these facts to show how year by year the business went on accumulating in the County Courts, until, in fact, a great part of the civil litigation of the country devolved upon them. The 16th and 17th of Victoria, chapter 51, (the Succession-Duty Act,) gave a power of appeal from assessments to those courts where the sum at issue was not above 50*l.* By the Customs Consolidation Act a similar power of appeal was given in cases of conviction up to the amount of 100*l.* penalty; while by the Charity Trusts Act jurisdiction in charity trust cases, where the income did not exceed 30*l.* per annum, was likewise vested in Judges of Country Circuits. The Common Law Procedure Act, 17th and 18th of Victoria, chapter 125, also authorized the Judges of Westminster Hall to refer causes involving questions of account to the County Court Judges. By the Friendly Societies Act, Judges of County Courts were empowered to wind up the affairs of friendly societies. The House would see from this statement that there is hardly any subject involving civil procedure which might not be brought before the County Courts.

He asked the House to agree to a resolution making the salaries of County Court Judges fixed and equal, as they ought to be men of equal ability, and independent of the Crown. But one of the acts of Parliament he had referred to gave the Treasury the power of apportioning the amount to be paid the Country Court Judges; so that they, "the most important Judges in the country," were required to bow down to the Treasury-benches for an increase of their salaries from the minimum of 1200*l.* to the maximum of 1500*l.* a year. It happened to him once, in the days when Lord Melbourne was Prime Minister, to have a grievance. He went to Lord Melbourne, and he should not easily forget the observation of that noble Lord—"It's all very fine," said Lord Melbourne, "to call me Prime Minister, but why don't you go to Johnny?" (*Loud laughter*). Mr. Roebuck had no desire to "go to Johnny": he made his application to Lord Melbourne; and the accuracy of that noble Lord's opinion was proved by the fact that his grievance remained unredressed. Why should the Judges of any court bow down to the Secretary of the Treasury? The County Court Judges try cases by thousands; they are expected to take a position in society; they administer justice to the poor, and should be above suspicion. He therefore asked that their salaries should be fixed and equal, and that they should not be less than 1500*l.* a year.

The rest of Mr. Roebuck's speech was taken up chiefly with a personal charge against Mr. Wilson, Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Roebuck has a brother-in-law, Mr. Falconer, who is a County Court Judge. In apportioning the number of Judges who should be paid at the maximum rate, as ordered by Parliament, the maximum was not awarded to Mr. Falconer. Why?

There must be some reason. The world at large did not know the reason. He could guess it, and the Secretary to the Treasury knew that he could. It was not that Mr. Wilson was told by his superiors to do so and so; but there were certain minds so constituted that they easily found out what their superiors desired, and, no matter what the dirty work might be, they were ready to do it. A worthy Judge had been passed over for political reasons. The miserable self-complacency of Mr. Wilson had been hurt by Mr. Roebuck's conduct, and therefore justice was not done to a County Court Judge because he was Mr. Roebuck's brother-in-law.

In another case he imputed corrupt motives "somewhere." Mr. Morris, sole County Court Clerk for Glamorganshire, resigned his office for the sum of 400*l.* a year. The Treasury gave him power to appoint assistant clerks; and when, some time afterwards, the Government expressed a wish to divide certain of the districts to which he had appointed clerks, one of those functionaries remonstrated, asserting that he had bought his situation from Mr. Morris. Here was a clear case of corruption somewhere.

Lord Stanley seconded the motion, on general grounds, disregarding altogether the personal question. Lord Brougham had said that the Judges should not be paid as it were by "piece-work"; for the same high qualifications, the same talent, industry, integrity, and high sense of honour, are required in all judges alike. While the principle of graduation exists, there must always exist a suspicion of favouritism and partiality; and therefore it would be better that the House should fix an uniform rate of payment.

Before Mr. Wilson replied to Mr. Roebuck on the personal question, Sir George Grey made a statement which rendered the motion unnecessary. On the establishment of the County Courts, the Judges were paid by fees, because, although it was originally intended that the payment should be by salaries, they had had no experience as to the fees that might be expected. The result was, that the payments of the Judges were very unequal; and then the payment by fees was changed into payment by salary. At that time Sir George was of opinion, and he had never seen reason to alter it, that the payment should be uniform; but the House thought otherwise, and imposed the duty of making distinctions in the salaries upon the Treasury. That course inevitably led to dissatisfaction. The Government have fully considered the question, and they have arrived at the conclusion that the County Court Judges should receive a fixed salary. They have looked at the question as if they were about to begin de novo; and the Lord Chancellor is of opinion that 1200*l.*, with travelling-expenses, will be adequate remuneration. Those who now receive 1500*l.* a year will continue to receive during their tenure of office; but he trusted the House would not hastily pledge itself to pay all County Court Judges 1500*l.* a year. The subject can be fully considered when the bills in the Upper House embodying the recommendations of the County Court Commissioners come before them.

Mr. Wilson made a personal explanation; showing the principle on which the maximum salary had been awarded to certain Judges by Mr. Gladstone and himself in 1853. Having failed in obtaining the assistance either of the County Courts Commissioners or the Lord Chancellor, they proceeded to decide in the best way they could. They dealt with the sixty circuits by numbers, ignorant of the names of the Judges; Mr. Wilson not having the slightest notion that Mr. Roebuck had a brother-in-law a Judge in a County Court. They took together the various elements on which the question of salaries depended,—the number of plaints, the number of sittings, the number of trials, the amount of fees,—and resolved that the fifteen Judges who had the largest amount of business should have the maximum salary. When the different elements he had described were thrown together, the largest number was 89,000 and the lowest 16,000; which showed the immense difference in the amount of duty performed by these Judges. The lowest in point of number among the fifteen selected came to close upon 50,000, and at that point there was a fall of 5000. Mr. Falconer was number 16, and therefore did not get the higher salary. Subsequently, for various reasons, the higher salary was awarded to three other Judges; but it was not until the end of 1855 that Mr. Falconer's duties came up to the point fixed by the Treasury minute. Mr. Roebuck gave notice of a motion relating to the County Courts, and as it had gone forth that Mr. Roebuck charged the Treasury with excluding Mr. Falconer on personal considerations, the increase of salary could not be awarded to him pending Mr. Roebuck's motion, without laying the Government open to a charge of wishing to conciliate that honourable and learned Member. As regards the case of Mr. Morris, they had learned through Mr. Falconer—who would have done well to communicate the information sooner—that money had passed between Mr. Morris and the persons appointed in his place; and the Treasury had ordered an inquiry.

In the subsequent portion of the debate, there was a general agreement in favour of fixing and equalizing the salaries of the County Court Judges; but a difference as to the amount. Sir John Pakington was prepared to fix the salary at 1500*l.*, and Mr. Malins took the same view; but Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli contended that it should remain an open question,—showing a decided leaning to the lower salary of 1200*l.* a year. It would be most unwise in the House at the present moment to pledge itself to increase the salaries of public servants. Mr. Gladstone severely lectured Mr. Roebuck for his attack upon Mr. Wilson; and Mr. Disraeli said he only expressed the general feeling of the House in stating that Mr. Wilson had given a satisfactory answer to the charges preferred against him.

Obeying the indication of the wish of the House, Mr. Roebuck withdrew his motion.

Secondary Punishments.

Mr. Scott moved for the appointment of a Select Committee "to consider how far, and in what direction, recent legislation and the substitution of other punishments for transportation had influenced the existing amount of crime." Sir George Grey, he observed, had given notice of an amendment to limit the inquiry into the operation of the Transportation Act of 1853, alleging that Mr. Scott's inquiry was too wide; but if it were too wide, Sir George's proposal would make it too narrow. To show the necessity for a large inquiry, Mr. Scott entered into a great variety of matters connected with criminal legislation. The tendency to diminish punishment, instead of diminishing crime, has increased it, far beyond the increase that might be looked for from the growth of population. Juvenile offenders, for instance, imprisoned for short periods, and not subjected to any reformatory process in prison, are encouraged in a course of crime. Only that day he had seen a boy in Tothillfields Prison, who, although but fourteen years of age, was then in prison for the twenty-sixth time. Since 1829, the number of criminals condemned to death had decreased from 1 in 9½, to 1 in 460 of the criminal population, while the number sentenced to six months' imprisonment has increased from 50 to 71 per cent. The sum spent in criminal expenses eight years ago was 1,100,000*l.*; now it is 2,250,000*l.* He adduced a number of statements to show that the ticket-of-leave system is not working with success. The latest returns of Colonel Jebb show that of 4612 released convicts only 258, or about 5½ per cent, have forfeited their licences; but inquiries he had made of head constables of the English counties showed that there were 31½ per cent. Ticket-of-leave men can with difficulty be kept out of the way of old associates; yet the police are kept in the dark as to their proceedings, and that operates unfairly to society, the police, and the released convicts themselves. The ticket-of-leave men are, in fact, professors of thieving, who travel through the country and take pupils. They should be kept under stricter surveillance, and their licences should be for short periods. There should be an inquiry into the shortness of terms of imprisonment for children, into the labour performed by prisoners, and into the propriety of reëstablishing transportation as regards young offenders.

Mr. Lloyd Davies seconded the motion.

Sir George Grey said, that the speeches of the mover and seconder had increased his apprehensions as to the vague and indefinite character of the inquiry proposed by Mr. Scott. If his amendment would exclude from consideration subjects which really have reference to secondary punishments and the position of convicts, he should be very ready to enlarge its terms. Sir George showed that offences have decreased and not increased: Mr. Scott did not allow for the increase of population. As regards the ticket-of-leave system, he stated some general results. Of 5132 ticket-of-leave holders, only 447, so far as the Government are informed, have been again committed for trial. The number of convicts to whom tickets-of-leave have been refused, or from whom they have been withdrawn, is 554. No doubt, the statements laid before Parliament are necessarily defective; but he had taken steps by which he hoped to get a report of every case in which a convict is again put upon his trial. The police are not set on the track of these men; where they see a man known to be the holder of a ticket associating with infamous persons, the police warn him; but if he live honestly they do not interfere. Sir George entered at some length into the transportation question; and although he did not think it likely that we should revert to transportation as it existed before 1853, he freely admitted that it might be made the subject of inquiry. He moved, "That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the operation of the act 16th and 17th of Victoria, chapter 99, entitled an Act to substitute, in certain cases, other Punishment in lieu of Transportation."

Sir John Pakington discussed some of the phases of the transportation question, which, he said, ought not to be excluded from the inquiry. But were they, under Sir George Grey's amendment, to have full liberty to enter into the terms of the Act of 1853? As regards the ticket-of-leave system, he thought they would not be justified in saying that it has failed. "The wisest and most prudent course would be, not to abandon the ticket-of-leave system, but to extend the period of punishment for which criminals are now sentenced; continuing to the Home Office the power which it at present possesses of holding out to convicts every possible encouragement to return to honest and industrious courses."

Mr. Labouchere, in a brief speech, consented, on the part of the Government, to insert words that would remove any ambiguity in the expressed intention of the Government to include the whole subject of secondary punishment in the inquiry.

Several other Members took part in the debate. Mr. Adderley, while admitting the necessity of an inquiry, pointed out that any great decrease of crime could not be expected from the operation of the penal law. That is a result that can only follow from preventive measures. Mr. Newdegate put in a word for transportation. Sir Stafford Northcote thought that the question of refuges and reformatories ought to come within the scope of the inquiry. Mr. S. Fitzgerald thought that there are localities where transportation might be revived with benefit both to the Colonies and the Mother-country.

Mr. Scott consented to withdraw his resolution; and Sir George Grey's amendment passed as a substantive motion.

Poor Law Amendments.

On Thursday, Mr. Bouverie obtained leave to bring in a bill "to amend the laws for the relief of the Poor"; and later in the evening it was read a first time. The bill provides, that places not included in parishes where no rate is raised, shall either be added to adjoining parishes, or created parishes for poor-rate purposes; that the remaining "Gilbert Unions" shall be abolished; that the Auditors, who are paid out of the Consolidated Fund, shall henceforth be appointed by the Government; and that the appointment of Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, now vested in the Poor-law Board, shall be transferred to the Boards of Guardians.

Mr. Bouverie has brought in a bill "to amend the laws for the removal of poor persons chargeable in England, who have been born in Scotland or Ireland." The bill proposes, that if, after investigation, the Magistrates should adjudicate that a pauper was a native of a parish or union in Scotland or Ireland, or had resided there for five years before coming to England, notice of his chargeability should be sent to such union or parish; that such union or parish should then be entitled to give notice of appeal, within thirty days, and also to examine the depositions upon which the order of removal was founded; and that if an appeal took place the pauper should not be removed until it was decided. The pauper would not be turned out at the first port at which the vessel conveying him happened to arrive, but would be sent to the workhouse of the union upon which he was chargeable.—Read a first time.

Factory Machinery.

Colonel Wilson Patten moved, on Wednesday, the second reading of the Factories Bill, and explained its objects. The law requires the owners of factories to place secure fences round all shafts and gearing; but one clause of the same act enables factory-occupiers to submit any cases respecting the fencing of machinery, as distinguished from shafting and gearing, to arbitration. There was, therefore, a power of arbitration as regards machinery, and an arbitrary enactment as regards gearing and shafting. He proposed by this bill to place the latter on the same footing as machinery. What led him to bring in the bill was the conflicting decisions of the Courts on the subject. A manufacturer placed his shafts along the ceiling of his rooms quite out of the reach of the workpeople: an accident occurred, and an action was brought against him: his defence was, that he had complied with the provisions of the act; but Mr. Justice Crowder decided that the act must be strictly interpreted, and a verdict was given against the manufacturer. He obtained a new trial, and Mr. Justice Cresswell ruled that the requirements of the act had been complied with; and the Jury gave a verdict for the defendant, subject to the opinion of the Court above on the point of law. The case was carried to the Court of Queen's Bench, and Lord Campbell decided that Mr. Justice Cresswell's decision was wrong, and must be reversed. That placed the manufacturers in an awkward predicament; they regarded it as impossible for any manufacturer on a large scale, some having miles of shafting, to comply with the law. The decisions of the Factory Inspectors were contradictory on the subject; and from that, and the compulsory enactment respecting gearing and shafting, they sought to be relieved.

Mr. Cobbett moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months. If the House agreed to the measure, he said they would remove a protection from the lives and limbs of the workpeople; and he adduced instances to show that shafting had caused many horrible accidents. As to arbitration, the manufacturers could easily evade the award by the slightest alteration of the machinery. Lord John Manners seconded the amendment.

After Mr. Milner Gibson had said a few words in support of the bill, Sir George Grey explained that the Government would not object to the second reading of the bill if Colonel Patten would consent to certain modifications; but he did not state what they were, further than to remark that the bill went beyond the proved necessity, and that the awards of arbitrators should be protected from evasion by severe penalties. On the part of Colonel Patten, Lord Stanley accepted Sir George's offer. The debate was continued by several Members on either side; and as the minute-hand of the clock approached the hour of six there arose cries of "Divide!" Colonel Patten had replied and accepted the offer of Sir George Grey, when Colonel Dunne, saluted by cries of "Oh! oh!" moved the adjournment of the debate. Mr. Montague Chambers seconded that motion, and the House divided. It was then seen that only 9 voted for the adjournment and 198 against it. But it was now only within ten minutes of six, and the main question could not be put, because, by the standing orders, the debate stood adjourned.

Late on Thursday, Mr. Cobbett withdrew his amendment, on the understanding that the bill should be read a second time and passed through Committee pro formâ, in order that Sir George Grey's amendments may be printed. The bill was accordingly read a second time.

Medical Profession Bill.

Mr. Headlam moved, on Wednesday, that the House should go into Committee on the Medical Profession Bill. Lord Robert Grosvenor, disclaiming any intention of offering a vexatious opposition, pointed out that there were on the paper notices of nearly a hundred amendments; and suggested that the consideration of the bill should be postponed. Mr. Headlam declined to accede. Mr. Walter, Mr. Thomas Duncombe, Mr. Walpole, and others, said that some of the amendments had been placed on the paper at the eleventh hour—especially one by the Government altering the constitution of the Medical Council; and some time ought to be given for their consideration. Mr. Headlam himself had given notice of amendments that filled three pages of the paper. Mr. Walpole moved that the Committee on the bill be deferred to Wednesday next. Sir George Grey, at first, urged the House to go into Committee, where the amendments could be discussed; but he yielded in deference to the feeling of the House. Several Members suggested a Select Committee. On a division, Mr. Walpole's amendment was carried by 116 to 81.

An irregular discussion arose, led by Mr. Headlam, who complained that the Government had "thrown him over": he would leave the bill in their hands. Sir George Grey said he had never agreed to take charge of the bill: the Government, knowing the discordant views of the medical profession on the subject, were not prepared to bring in a bill; they were prepared to refer the question to a Select Committee. Lord Elcho said, he should on Thursday move for leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to the medical profession. The best mode of dealing with the subject would be to appoint a Royal Commission of inquiry; but in the mean time, his bill and that of Mr. Headlam might be referred to a Select Committee.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. Malins has obtained leave to bring in a bill "to abolish all distinctions between specialty and simple contract debts."

A specialty debt is created when a party signs an instrument to which a seal is affixed; a simple contract debt is not under seal, but is incurred in the case of the purchase of goods or the signing of a promissory note. Formerly the creditor of a specialty debt had this advantage over the creditor of a simple contract debt—namely, that the former could have recourse to the land of the debtor for the payment of the money due to him. Down to the time of William and Mary, a specialty creditor had a right to resort to the land of the debtor, and he had also a priority of claim as regarded the personal estate of the debtor. But there was this limitation of the right of the specialty creditor, that he could only resort to the land of his debtor while it was in his own hands or in the hands of his heir-at-law; he could not follow the land if it were in the hands of a devisee. The practice, therefore, was for the debtor to devise his land, and thus deprive his creditor of any remedy against it. That mischief was cured by the Act of the 3d and 4th of William and Mary, called the Statute of Frauds; which enacted that if any land was devised for the purpose of defrauding a specialty creditor, the devise should be void as against that creditor, and that he should be able to follow the land in the hands of the devisee, just as he could if it were in the hands of the heir. But the Courts of Equity, when dealing with the property of deceased persons, recognize no distinction between specialty and simple contract debts.

In 1807, Sir Samuel Romilly introduced a bill to make freehold estates liable to the payment of debts; but although that bill was then and repeatedly carried in the House of Commons, it was rejected in the House of Lords; and it was not until 1833 that a bill brought in by the present Sir John Romilly became law, making real estates assets for the payment of simple contract debts, but still preserving the distinction by which specialty creditors are paid in full before creditors on simple contracts. That distinction he proposed to abolish.

No opposition was offered, and the bill was read a first time.

The Attorney-General obtained leave to bring in a bill "to amend the law relating to the criminal appropriation of property held by persons as trustees or bailees." According to the common law of England, if a person obtains possession of property for a specific purpose for the benefit of another, and afterwards fraudulently appropriates it, he is only civilly liable to a Court of Common Law or Equity. Many exceptions have been introduced, thereby creating anomalies which are abolished by the bill, and all fraudulent appropriations involve a criminal responsibility.

Sir John Shelley obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law with respect to Joint-Stock Banks in England, so as to enable shareholders to reëlect at once, and not, as the act at present provides, after an interval of twelve months, directors who have gone out by annual rotation.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has brought in a bill to amend the laws relating to fire-insurances. A foreign company has established an agency in England, and under the existing law it can evade the duty: Sir George Lewis's bill makes the duty payable whether the policy be made, signed, or issued within the United Kingdom, or elsewhere. The bill was read a first time on Thursday.

Supply.

The House of Commons sat many hours in Committee of Supply on Monday, and voted eighty-one items of the Civil Service Estimates. Among those items were various large sums for "Public Buildings and Royal Palaces," "Royal Parks and Gardens," "Public Buildings in Ireland." Several Members, the most conspicuous among whom were Mr. W. Williams, Sir Henry Willoughby, Mr. Wise, and Mr. Blackburn, raised many objections. Large sums had been expended on Royal Palaces,—on Hampton Court, Mr. Williams said, for the convenience of "the poor but haughty members of the aristocracy." Much money was voted for the London Parks,—an injustice to the country at large. In reference to the former, Sir Benjamin Hall stated, that only 3000*l.* of the sum of 195,141*l.* was applied to palaces in the occupation of her Majesty; the larger portion of the vote was for public buildings and offices. The appointment to apartments in Hampton Court rests entirely with the Queen. How had they been conferred during the past year? On the 4th of May, Lady Susan Strangways, the widow of General Strangways, received the grant of apartments in Hampton Court Palace; on the 19th of June, a similar appointment was given to Mrs. Cureton; on the 9th of July to Mrs. Boxer; subsequently to Mrs. Shadforth; and on the 9th of December to Lady Torrens. [These statements were received with cheers.]

On the vote of 91,684*l.* for maintaining and keeping in repair the Royal Parks and Gardens, Mr. Bowyer moved to reduce the vote by 22,140*l.*, the amount of increase compared with the vote of last year.—Negatived by 119 to 35. Colonel Dunne moved that the vote should be rejected altogether.—Negatived by 97 to 28. Mr. Bowyer moved that the vote should be reduced 2175*l.*, the sum required for paving the footpath in Birdcage Walk and the footpath between Hyde Park Corner and Knightsbridge.—Negatived by 83 to 19.

On the vote of 93,383*l.*, for works and expenses connected with the new Houses of Parliament, Sir Henry Willoughby raised a discussion on the question of Sir Charles Barry's commission. Sir Benjamin Hall and Mr. Wilson stated that the Government had offered to pay Sir Charles 3 per cent on the outlay, and 1 per cent on the outlay for his personal trouble in measuring the work. That offer had been refused. Up to the close of the year 1852 Sir Charles had received 44,000*l.*; to which must be added 15,000*l.* for measurement, making a total of 59,000*l.* Until Sir Charles accepts the arrangement no further sums will be paid on account. The sum required to finish the works in progress is 280,272*l.*; the sum required for the execution of works proposed in the additional plans would be from 500,000*l.* to 800,000*l.* Government declined to submit the question to arbitration, although Sir Charles Barry was desirous that it should be so submitted.

On the vote of 458,275*l.* for printing and stationery for the Houses of Parliament and the public departments, Mr. Walpole, referring to the recommendations of the Select Committee on printing which sat last year, called attention to the large amount of the vote, and the necessity of controlling Committees of that House and Royal Commissions with regard to what should be printed, especially in the matter of appendices. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said he was glad that attention had been called to the subject: there is great reason why an attempt should be made to reduce the expense of printing within moderate limits. It would be a delicate matter to interfere with the authority of Committees as regards evidence, but many documents do find their way into appendices not worth the expense of printing. The expenses have increased from the habit of printing a great number of forms of accounts. Mr. Vernon Smith suggested that Mr. Walpole should take the sense of the House on the subject. It should be left to the decision of the Printing Committee, or of some other body, to determine what documents should be printed. Mr. Henley would be glad if it should be found possible to reduce the vote without injury to the public service, but confessed that he was no advocate for cutting down the printing too much. Mr. Disraeli could not adopt the views of Mr. Walpole. If half a million were spent in publishing information obtained by Parliamentary Committees, he should hesitate to sanction a reduction of that expenditure. Parliamentary literature is one of the characteristics of the day; it influences the decisions of the House—the prosperity of the country; and it contributes not a little to the sound and judicious administration of public affairs.—The vote was agreed to.

Torture in India.

In the House of Lords on Thursday, the Earl of Albemarle moved for certain papers connected with some recent cases of torture in the Presidency of Madras. One of the taxes still levied in that Presidency, although abolished in the others, is called "moturpha." It is a tax on trade and occupations, embracing weavers, carpenters, all workers in metals, all salesmen, whether possessing shops, which are also taxed separately, or vending by the road-side, &c.; some paying impost on their tools, others for permission to sell; extending to the most trifling articles of trade and the cheapest tools the mechanic can employ, the cost of which is frequently exceeded six times over by the moturpha, under which the use of them is permitted. On the 5th July 1855, Mr. Shubrick, collector of Chengleput, directed one of his deputies, under penalty of a "severe order," to collect the loom-tax in the village of Pariapollium. The deputy, a native, ordered the weavers to appear before him, and when they said they had no money wherewith to pay the tax, in the words of Mr. Shubrick, his deputy put them "under restraint." That is to say, he forced fourteen of the villagers to stand in the sun from eight in the morning till nearly ten at night, with their bodies bent towards their knees and the weight of a man upon their backs! During this time they had nothing to eat or drink. Their torture recommenced next day. They had no money; but in compassion for them the women of the villages sold their ornaments to pay the tax. The collector, when this was complained of, thought that the deputy would be sufficiently punished if fined five rupees, or ten shillings. Lord Albemarle moved for papers relating to this piece of disgusting torture.

The Duke of Argyll said, there was no objection to the production of the papers, but at present they are not in the possession of the Government. Every member of the Government desires to abolish the moturpha tax: there are great difficulties in the way of its abolition, but he trusted that in a short time they would be overcome.

The papers were ordered to be laid on the table.

New Writs.

Just before the House adjourned on Wednesday, Mr. Hayter moved a new writ for the election of a Member for Athlone, in the place of the Right Honourable William Keogh, who has accepted the office of one of the Puisne Judges of the Court of Common Pleas in Ireland; and also a new writ for the election of a Member for Ennis, in the place of Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald, who has accepted the office of her Majesty's Attorney-General for Ireland.—Ordered.

The Crimean Inquiry.

The first sitting of the Board of Officers appointed "to take into consideration so much of the 'Reports on the Supplies to the British Army in the Crimea,' lately presented by her Majesty's commands to both Houses of Parliament, as animadverts upon the conduct of certain officers upon her Majesty's General Staff and in her Majesty's Army," was held in the hall of Chelsea Hospital, on Thursday. The Board is composed of Sir Alexander Woodford, president, Earl Beauchamp, Sir George Berkeley, Sir John Bell, Sir W. Rowan, Major-General Peel, and Major-General Knollys. Mr. Villiers, Judge-Advocate-General, attended on the part of the Government; the Adjutant-General's department was represented by Colonel Douglas; and Lieutenant-Colonel Bagot acted as Secretary to the Board.

The proceedings of the sitting did not occupy more than half an hour, and were merely formal. The Royal warrant, and a letter of further directions from Lord Panmure to Lord Hardinge, were read. The Judge-Advocate-General handed in the names of the officers animadverted on in the Report—"Major-General the Earl of Lucan, K.C.B., Major-General the Earl of Cardigan, K.C.B., Major-General Sir Richard Airey, K.C.B., Quartermaster-General, Colonel the Honourable Alexander Gordon, C.B., (Grenadier Guards,) Deputy Quartermaster-General." Mr. Villiers also read the following rules for the conduct of the proceedings before the Board.

"1. The proceedings of this Board will be conducted as nearly as possible in accordance with the practice of ordinary military courts of inquiry.

"2. Evidence may be given before the Board either in the form of written statements to be read out to the Board by the parties tendering such statements, or by the oral examination of witnesses, conducted as nearly as possible in accordance with the ordinary military practice.

"3. This Board is not empowered to examine witnesses on oath.

"4. Every military witness will be informed that he is at liberty to decline making any statement which may form the subject of a charge against him before a court-martial, and that any statement which he may make after being so cautioned will be admissible in evidence against him.

"5. The cases of the several parties who are considered to have a right to appear before the Board will be taken separately."

It was arranged that the inquiry should begin on Monday, with the case of the Earl of Lucan; and that the other cases should follow in the order of the military rank of the parties. It was also agreed that notice should be given to Sir John M'Neill and Colonel Tulloch that their "report is about to be called in question by the Board."

The Court.

The Queen returned from Windsor Castle to Buckingham Palace on Tuesday afternoon. Soon after her Majesty's arrival, Lord Panmure had an audience. Lord Palmerston had an audience on Wednesday.

Yesterday her Majesty held a Court and Privy Council. At the Court, Count Colloredo had an audience to deliver his letter of recall as Austrian Minister; and the Honourable George Mifflin Dallas had an audience to present his credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America. Mr. Christie, British Minister to the Argentine Confederation, was presented, and took leave. Mr. William Holmes, late Special Commissioner from British Guiana to the Paris Exhibition, was presented, and received the honour of knighthood. At the Privy Council, Sir Lawrence Peel was sworn of the Council; Lord Leigh took the oaths as Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Warwick; and Lord Palmerston and Earl Spencer had audience of the Queen.

Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and the Princess Royal, were at the Princess's Theatre on Wednesday, and at the Haymarket on Thursday.

The Metropolis.

Intelligence of the signature of the Treaty of Peace at Paris was received in London on Sunday afternoon, and soon became known over town. The Londoners were immediately on the qui-vive, listening for the firing of the Park and Tower guns. The order for the firing reached the Horse Guards at a time when evening service was in progress in the churches, and Lord Hardinge thought it proper to wait until all chance of disturbing the devotions of the evening was over. At ten o'clock the guns began to fire on the esplanade in rear of the Horse Guards. Crowds of persons rushed to the spot; and those who could not obtain admission lingered in the streets. The number of guns fired was 101; and the stillness of the Sabbath evening, when nearly all traffic is suspended, rendered the solemn sound audible in all parts of England's great capital. At the same time joy-peals were rung in the towers of various churches, and several private persons fired off small cannon and musketry.

On Monday morning, a London Gazette Extraordinary, rapidly followed by a Supplement, made their appearance, and contained the following documents.

"*Foreign Office, March* 31.—A despatch has been this morning received from the Earl of Clarendon, her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, dated Paris, March 30, announcing the signature of peace, at two o'clock on that day, at the Foreign Office in Paris.

"The Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, of Austria, of France, of Prussia, of Russia, of Sardinia, and of Turkey, have affixed their signatures to the treaty which puts an end to the war; and which, while definitively settling the Eastern question, establishes the tranquillity of Europe on solid and durable bases.

"The exchange of the ratifications will take place at Paris in four weeks, or sooner if possible: until that time the stipulations of the treaty cannot be made public."

The following announcement, in the Supplement, differs from the preceding document in the position it assigns to the Emperor of Russia.

"*Foreign Office, March* 31.—The Honourable Spencer Ponsonby arrived at the Foreign Office this morning from Paris, with the definitive treaty for the restoration of peace, and for the maintenance of the integrity and independence of the Ottoman empire, which was yesterday signed at Paris by the Plenipotentiaries of her Majesty, of the Emperor of the French, of the King of Sardinia, and of the Sultan, and also of the Emperor of Austria

and of the King of Prussia, on the one part, and of the Emperor of all the Russias on the other."

At ten o'clock on Monday, the Lord Mayor went in due form to the stone balcony in front of the Mansionhouse, and read to a great crowd a communication, in substance the same as the despatch in the Supplement to the Gazette, which he had received from Sir George Grey. This was not, however, the whole of the ceremony. Large numbers had already assembled in front of the Exchange, and the neighbouring windows and house-tops were occupied. As the Lord Mayor did not arrive, the people grew impatient, and a deputation was sent to request his Lordship to announce the signature of the treaty from the steps of the Royal Exchange. At twelve o'clock, Lord Mayor Salomons walked in procession to the Royal Exchange, and read aloud Sir George Grey's missive. There was of course "great cheering," with waving of hats and handkerchiefs. The firing of the Tower guns closed the proceedings.

At the Horse Guards the public met with a disappointment. Preparations were made to fire the guns on Monday, apparently in obedience to order. But if so, the order was countermanded; and as the guns were removed the crowd hooted the soldiers, and some boys pelted them. The naughty boys were arrested, and punished the next day by the Police Magistrates.

There was no illumination on Monday. The only show of gladness was the exhibition of the flags of the Allies from some houses and public buildings, and from some of the ships in the river. Church-bells also continued to ring joy-peals at intervals throughout the day.

A Court of Common Council was held on Thursday, and the members assembled in great force, to take some important business into consideration. The Remembrancer having informed the Court that the Government had brought a bill into Parliament for the better regulation of the Corporation, it was resolved that "the consideration of the bill should be referred to a Committee of the whole Court, with directions to report their opinion to the Court forthwith."

The next subject was the Oath of Abjuration. Mr. Anderton moved a resolution appointing a deputation with instructions to wait on Ministers and solicit their support in obtaining a "repeal of the law requiring the oath of abjuration to be taken by persons appointed to public offices." The motion was met by an amendment, moved by Mr. T. Parker, proposing that the deputation should solicit the influence of Ministers "in procuring the enactment of a law for altering the form of the oath commonly called the 'oath of abjuration,' by expunging therefrom the words 'on the true faith of a Christian.'" There was little discussion: the amendment did not find favour, and was negatived; and the original resolution was carried by a large majority.

It was now late in the afternoon, and the number of members had visibly increased. The attraction was a contest for the office of Judge of the Sheriff's Court, vacated by Mr. Russell Gurney, now Common Sergeant. There were three candidates, Mr. Ryland, Mr. Prendergast, and Sir W. Riddell. Only the last two went to a poll: at its close, the numbers were—Prendergast 98, Riddell 77. Mr. Prendergast was declared duly elected.

At a meeting of the Court of Aldermen on Tuesday, Alderman Sidney called attention to the shocking circumstances attending the execution of Bousfield on Monday. Was it true that the nervousness of the hangman was caused by the receipt of a threatening letter? Alderman and Sheriff Kennedy described the scene which occurred, and said that Calcraft had been certainly alarmed by a letter he had received stating that he would be shot at. The prisoner was in such a state of physical prostration that he seemed thoroughly incapable of the least exertion. Alderman and Sheriff Rose said he could not get the hangman to go forward at all, and that he could not feel satisfied to carry out another execution with that man. It was ordered that the matter should be referred to the Gaol Committee.

A deputation, including thirty-four Members of Parliament, headed by Mr. Oliveira, waited yesterday upon Lord Palmerston, to bring under his notice the question of the wine-duties, and the desirableness of promoting by their reduction freer trade between England and France. Lord Palmerston said it was not necessary for him to enter on the merits of the general question of Free-trade. As to commercial treaties, his experience told him that they are to be avoided as far as they include a binding of each Government to particular tariffs. He could only say to France, Some of our duties on your goods are high, we will lower them if you will lower yours. But there are local prejudices and other reasons which have prevented such treaties from being carried out. The best way to get a reduction of duties in foreign countries is to show others how we ourselves flourish on free trade. He seemed to think that the duty on wine is not too high, and that if it were lowered from 1*s.* to 6*d.* the revenue would suffer. But he said that the deputation might rest assured, that if the Government see any means of improving our commercial relations with France without endangering our revenue, they shall not be overlooked.

Certain friends of the Voluntary principle in educational matters held a meeting at Crosby Hall on Wednesday,—Mr. Barnes M.P. in the chair. Their object was to consider Lord John Russell's resolutions and Lord Granville's bill. Conspicuous among the speakers were the Chairman, Mr. Bell M.P., Mr. Edward Baines of Leeds, and Mr. Frank Crossley M.P. The whole bearing of the arguments was against Government interference; and the first resolution stated, that the meeting, "convinced that the education of children has been most wisely and beneficently placed by Divine Providence in the hands of parents, saw with regret the efforts continually made to bring it under the direction and control of the State." The other resolutions condemned alike the plans of Lord John Russell and those of the Government. Lord John's proposal is described as a "novel system of Government-inspection," "repugnant to the spirit of the British people." Lord Granville's measure is looked upon as "adapted to kindle religious feuds throughout the kingdom, and to embarrass the progress of popular education." In the opinion of Mr. Baines, Government has been "the greatest hinderance to education."

The members of Lloyd's held another meeting on Wednesday, to consider the state of the underwriting business. Mr. Watts again stated his case, resting it on the ground that there has been an increase in frauds; but at the close of his speech he withdrew his motion for the appointment of a board of examination. Mr. Wills denied that the frauds of the present day would bear any comparison with those of former times; and he illustrated his meaning by saying, that they suffered from "felonies" then, but they are only subjected to "petty larcenies" now. The general feeling was decidedly against Mr. Watts's motion as unnecessary, and his views on the subject of frauds as unsound.

The war would not seem to have diminished the subscribing-power of London, if we might judge from special instances. On Wednesday, the Lord Mayor presided over the fourth anniversary-gathering of the Royal Medical Benevolent College, and before its close 2000*l.* had been subscribed. But the money brought by the eighth anniversary dinner of the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, held the same evening, and over which Sir John Shelley presided, far surpassed this amount: the whole collection was nearly 5000*l.*, including twenty subscriptions of 100*l.* each.

The Reverend James Charles Ward has twice attended before the Bow Street Magistrate on a charge of sending letters to the Queen, Lord Palmerston, Sir George Grey, and others, denoting an insane state of mind. The object is to ascertain whether any restraint should be imposed on Mr. Ward; but as yet little evidence has been given. On Tuesday, Mr. Ward wasted the time of the court for hours by making rambling remarks to show that his mind was not unhinged. The Solicitor of the Treasury, having received new information, requested an adjournment for a week; which the Magistrate granted. Mr. Ward is at large. before leaving the court, he intimated that he did not feel bound to attend again, and would not. Mr. Henry told him he could be apprehended if he did not.

Lieutenant Ackerley R.N., usually called "Captain" Ackerley, well known as a disturber of public meetings, has got into trouble. He was a life-member of the United Service Institution; the other members resolved unanimously to expel him; at the meeting at which this vote was passed, Lieutenant Ackerley seized some papers, and struck Mr. Tonna the secretary; he was forcibly removed; he tried to reënter the building; a policeman seized him; Ackerley called upon Besquet, his American Indian attendant, whom he declares to be a constable, to arrest the officer; and the Indian violently attacked the policeman. When taken before the Bow Street Magistrate, Ackerley contended that the members had no legal right to expel him. Mr. Jardine corrected him on that point; fined him 5*l.*, and Besquet 1*l.*; and required the Lieutenant to give sureties for his future good behaviour.

The last days of Bousfield, the wretched man who murdered his wife and three children in Soho, were attended by some peculiarly painful circumstances, and the scene on the scaffold was horrible. After his conviction, Bousfield was taciturn and sullen; for a time he tried to sham insanity, but desisted when told it was useless, as the pretence was seen through. He seems to have had hopes of a commutation of his sentence. He made no direct allusions to his crimes, exhibited no penitence, and was little affected by the exhortations of the Ordinary. There seems no doubt, however, from a letter which he sent to his wife's father, that he murdered his wife from jealousy—he thought she had been familiar with a young man who came to her cigar-shop. On Saturday, two of Bousfield's sisters visited him: he seemed very indifferent about his position. After they had gone, he made a strange attempt to destroy himself—he started from his seat and threw himself head-foremost upon the fire-grate. The officer who had charge of him immediately pulled him away; but the wretched creature's clothes had been set on fire, and he was a good deal burnt about the lower part of the face, from the thick hair under his chin having caught fire; and he was under the doctor's hands for the brief remainder of his existence. He then refused to take any sustenance; and only swallowed, almost by force, a small quantity of milk from Saturday afternoon till Monday morning.

As the fatal hour approached, Bousfield appeared prostrated, and unconscious of what was going on around him: it is suspected that a good deal of this apparent weakness was assumed, with some wild hope of thereby effecting escape, or at least of creating a sensation on the scaffold. Wine was given to him; he was supported to the scaffold, carried up the ladder, and placed beneath the beam seated on a chair, in which an assistant held him while Calcraft adjusted the rope round his neck. The frightful sequel is thus narrated by the *Times*—"When the signal was given, the chair on which the wretched man was still seated of course gave way with the drop, and consequently the fall was not nearly so great as it is under ordinary circumstances; and at this dreadful moment the prisoner attempted to carry out the desperate struggle for life which he had evidently contemplated. The sound of the falling drop had scarcely passed away when there was a shriek from the crowd of 'He is up again!' and, to the horror of every one, it was found that the prisoner by a powerful muscular effort had drawn himself up completely to the level of the drop, that both his feet were resting upon the edge of it, and he was vainly endeavouring to raise his hands to the rope. One of the officers immediately rushed upon the scaffold, and pushed the wretched man's feet from their hold; but in an instant, by a violent effort, he threw himself to the other side, and again succeeded in getting both his feet on the edge of the drop. Calcraft, who had left the scaffold imagining that all was over, was called back: he seized the wretched criminal; but it was with considerable difficulty that he forced him from the scaffold, and he was again suspended. The short relief the wretched man had obtained from the pressure of the rope by these desperate efforts had probably enabled him to respire; and, to the astonishment and horror of all the spectators, he a third time succeeded in placing his feet upon the platform, and again his hands vainly attempted to reach the fatal cord. Calcraft and two or three other men then again forced the wretched man's feet from their hold, and his legs were held down until the final struggle was over. While this fearful scene was being enacted, the bells of the different neighbouring churches were ringing merrily upon the announcement of peace, offering a sad contrast to the melancholy proceeding."

It is said that the executioner had been rendered nervous by the receipt of an anonymous letter threatening that he should be shot on the scaffold: the Chaplain failed to reassure him by declaring that the letter was a hoax, and by pointing out that he himself would be longer exposed on the scaffold than Calcraft would be.

Mr. James Neil, Superintendent of Hampton Court Palace Gardens, has committed suicide, by throwing himself from the roof of his apartments in the palace on to the stone pavement beneath. He was of a very excitable temperament, and had recently behaved in so strange a manner that there could be no doubt that he was insane at the moment that he destroyed himself.

A middle-aged man, unknown, committed suicide on Tuesday night, close to the railings of St. Peter's Church, Mile-end, by blowing his head to pieces with a pistol. The pistol had been overcharged, and it burst; the man's head was torn to pieces, and the fragments were scattered all around.

The premises of Messrs. Dobbs and Co., wholesale fancy stationers in Fleet Street, were burnt down on Tuesday evening. They were surrounded

in the rear by a number of printing-offices and other places of business, which were in great peril: they were saved, however, though much damaged by water.

Another fire, on Wednesday night, destroyed the premises of Messrs Marlborough, news-agents, in Ave Maria Lane, and greatly damaged surrounding buildings. Several other fires are reported this week.

Provincial.

The old Diocesan School at Bristol has been converted into a "Trade School." The course of education will include, besides the ordinary subjects of study, the teaching of the principles of science with special reference to trades and manufactures; and the scientific lessons will be illustrated by demonstrations and experiments. The teaching will not be wholly secular; but the religious instruction afforded will not be compulsory on those children whose parents raise any objection. The Bristol School was opened yesterday week. Earl Granville had consented to be present; and a deputation met him at the railway station and escorted him to the Council-house, where a breakfast began the proceedings of the day. After breakfast, the whole party inspected the building; and then attended a public meeting held in the hall of the Merchant Venturers,—Earl Granville in the chair. Certain formal resolutions, such as the adoption of the report, gave an opportunity for speeches by Sir Arthur Elton, Mr. Commissioner Hill, Dr. Lyon Playfair, Mr. Gore Langton M.P., and others; Earl Granville delivering the speech expected from him in reply to a vote of thanks. His discourse was somewhat discursive; comprising the relative merits of trade and classical education, and the due proportion in which each should be carried out—"it is a question of degree"; the difficulties in the way of education; the stimulus which could be imparted to education by the Government, who might give public places to educated men, and by the great employers of labour, who could refuse to employ persons ignorant of reading, writing, and arithmetic; the great merits of the Reverend Canon Moseley; and the practical object before the meeting—the Trade School.

He hoped that in this school special care would be taken to teach the English language—a subject which is too much neglected in every school of every class in this country. There is no advantage which can be given to a man greater than to learn to speak and write his own language grammatically. It might be trivial to mention the circumstances, but he knew a lady who was proposed to and married by a very able man, not so much because he had fallen in love with her personal charms as because he was so delighted with the letters which she wrote to a third person. (*Laughter and applause.*) Lord Granville received a letter a short time since from a person applying for a Government appointment: he did not know the writer, and had no place to give, but he was so struck with the letter that he could not resist showing it to the present Governor-General of India: Lord Canning—one of the most judicious administrators of patronage he ever knew—was so struck with the letter that he took it away, intending to make an investigation as to the person who had written it, and see if he were a fit person for a clerkship in the Post-office. In mentioning these two circumstances, Lord Granville wished to guard himself from giving the slightest hope that the future students of the Trade Schools were likely to get beautiful and accomplished wives by the excellence of their epistolary correspondence; still less did he wish to suggest to them that they would be anything but sacrificing their prospects in life if they were to neglect their own business in trying to soften the obdurate heart of a Minister by grandiloquent epistles seeking for appointments. (*Laughter.*) As an instance of the value of scientific knowledge, he would mention, that his colleague the Duke of Argyll had, from his peculiar education, mastered in a great degree all the physical sciences; and, being a Scotchman, he possessed those characteristics described by Mr. Commissioner Hill, and was not likely to let his habits of practical observation be entirely thrown away. Some time since, his noble friend was looking at a quantity of refuse thrown away in the working of some metals, and was struck with its appearance; he sent it to a provincial metallurgist, and was told that there was nothing remarkable in it; not satisfied with that, the Duke of Argyll sent it to the Museum of Practical Geology in London; when it was found that there was 11 per cent of nickel, a valuable metal, and that every ton of this refuse was worth from 50*l.* to 60*l.*

The members and friends of the Polytechnic Institution, Southampton, held a soirée on Monday; when Dr. Booth, Sir Alexander Cockburn, and the Reverend Sidney Godolphin Osborne, made speeches on the advantages of mechanics institutions as agents in the promotion of education.

A very large meeting was held in the Town-hall of St. Albans on Thursday,—the Earl of Verulam, Lord-Lieutenant of the county, in the chair,—for the purpose of considering the best means of restoring and upholding the ancient Abbey Church of St. Albans, with a view to its being constituted the seat of a new bishopric, embracing the whole of Hertfordshire. Among those who attended the meeting were the Marquis of Salisbury, Lord Robert Grosvenor, Sir Edward Lytton, Lord Robert Cecil, Archdeacon Grant, and Mr. Abel Smith M.P. It was unanimously resolved that the Abbey Church is worthy of preservation; that a subscription should be raised for its restoration and adaptation to the purposes of a cathedral; and that the spiritual interests of the county would be benefited if St. Albans were made a Bishop's see. The sum of 4300*l.* was subscribed in the room.

The news of peace set almost all the bells in the country ringing either on Sunday night or Monday morning. In the great towns the bell-ringing was accompanied by a display of the flags of the Allied Powers. But the remark common to the reports that tell of what took place is that the exhibitions of satisfaction were "tame."

A meeting was held on Monday in the Shire Hall of Gloucester,—the Mayor in the chair,—to consider the question of Income-tax reform. The chief speakers were Mr. Price M.P., Mr. Attwood and Mr. Partridge as a deputation from the Birmingham Income-tax Reform Association, Mr. S. Bowly, and Mr. T. M. Sturge. Mr. Attwood said, while the war lasted there was some reason for not perilling the position of the Government by moving in the matter; but that now the war is over he would upset any Ministry to come at a proper adjustment of the tax. The meeting resolved, that "the present Income-tax is oppressive and unjust because unequal, and, from the nature of the assessments, inquisitorial; and that an equitable adjustment or total abolition of the tax is necessary." A petition to Parliament and a memorial to the Chancellor of the Exchequer were agreed upon.

Mr. Sparke, one of the secretaries of the Suffolk Shrievalty Association, writes to the *Times*, stating that he had made public not the rules of the Association, but a "crude prospectus"; and that the comments of Sir John Jervis were based upon this prospectus. He now supplies the rules. That one which is interesting to the public has undergone an important modification. Instead of proposing to employ the County Police to perform the duties of the javelin-men, at the expense of the county, it simply proposes that "an arrangement be made by which the County Police be employed as far as possible in lieu of javelin-men."

At Gloucester Assizes, Mary Ann Rosser, an elderly woman, was convicted of bigamy, but recommended to mercy on account of her legal husband's behaviour towards her: he had deserted her and her children, for which he had been imprisoned; he is now living with a female with whom he absconded; when he heard that his wife had remarried, he wrote to her demanding "his goods," saying she was "now in his power." Mr. Baron Bramwell regretted that this fellow could not be punished—his crime was greater than the wife's; it would serve him right if he were tarred and feathered and paraded through Ledbury, where the wife lives: however, he would have to pay the costs of the prosecution, for the Judge would not allow them. The wife's sentence was imprisonment for four days; but she was immediately liberated, as more than four days had elapsed since the opening of the Assizes.

Palin, the ticket-of-leave man who was acquitted of a murder near Bromley in Kent, some time back, was convicted of a burglary at Thornbury. Sentence, transportation for life.

At the Chester Winter Assizes, John Moah, Receiver of Inland Revenue at Chester, was convicted of embezzling public money; and at the present Assizes he was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years.

George Joseph Nathaniel Charlier, aged twenty-five, was clerk at the Gun-Wharf or "War Department" of Portsmouth; he had been nine years in the service, had a salary of 190*l.*, and a house free. It was his duty to obtain the money from the branch of the Bank of England to pay wages, pensions, &c. On Friday sennight he had a check for 1130*l.*; a messenger went with him to carry the bags of coin; Charlier made an excuse to send him away, then got the money and fled. He is a married man with two children: he absconded with a woman named Jones, who had formerly been his servant. Government offered a reward of 100*l.* for his apprehension. On Sunday night, Superintendent Leggett arrived at Portsmouth with Charlier, Jones, and upwards of 1100*l.* of the plunder. Charlier was arrested in London, while disguised as a woman in widow's weeds: he and Jones had posted along the old coach-road. On Monday, the prisoners were produced before the Portsmouth Magistrates: Charlier was still dressed as a widow—his "make-up" was admirable. He was committed; but as it did not appear that his companion knew anything of the robbery, the Magistrates liberated her.

In the Manchester County Court, Mr. Gibbs has recovered 10*l.* from the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, as damages for loss of time and expenses arising from unpunctuality in a train. This was the peculiar point: the delay occurred on the way to Newcastle, but *not* on the Lancashire and Yorkshire line; the Company contended it was therefore not responsible. The Judge held that the Company was responsible, because it had granted a ticket from Manchester to Newcastle.

There has been a desperate fight between keepers and poachers on the Earl of Ellesmere's estate at Worsley, near Manchester. Five keepers were on the watch, when eight poachers stumbled on them; the poachers, armed with bludgeons, attacked the keepers, who had swords; both parties used their weapons freely; the keepers conquered, and captured four of their opponents. When produced before the Salford Magistrates, the prisoners presented a ghastly spectacle, the sword-cuts having covered them with blood. They were committed for trial.

IRELAND.

Guns were fired and bells rung at Dublin on Monday when the news reached that city that a treaty of peace had been signed at Paris; "but there was no appearance of popular excitement on the occasion to be observed in the demeanour of the citizens, who seem to take the good news with wonderful coolness."

We hear that in all probability Mr. Christian, Q.C., will succeed Mr. Fitzgerald as Solicitor-General for Ireland. We believe that no appointment could be made calculated to give more satisfaction to the Irish bar or the public. Mr. Christian is no politician; and his promotion is entirely owing to the position which he admittedly occupies as the first Chancery barrister in Ireland.—*Globe*, April 4.

In the course of the proceedings in the Master's Office respecting the affairs of the Tipperary Bank, it appeared that in August last John Sadleir transferred some twenty conveyances of property to the London and County Bank, as security for advances, though previously to that date he had agreed to transfer the estates to the Tipperary Bank as security for the large advances he had taken from it.

On the second floor of an old house in Penrose Square, Cork—a miserable locality—some fifty persons were assembled on Saturday night at a "wake"; soon after midnight the floor gave way, and in falling crushed in the floor beneath, with its lodgers: dead and dying and wounded were mingled in one shocking mass. It has been ascertained that nineteen persons lost their lives, and that forty others were more or less hurt.

SCOTLAND.

Dundee has built itself a new Exchange, in which the Chamber of Commerce will in future transact its business. This building, a gratifying proof of the progress of Dundee, was formally opened on Tuesday, with due ceremonial and speechmaking. Mr. Easson presided over the banquet; in which, and its sequel, Sir John Ogilvy, Mr. David Baxter, and Mr. W. E. Baxter M.P., took part. In his opening speech, Mr. Easson stated that it was thought, two years ago, when the war was declared, that it would ruin Dundee: but "things have turned out differently, and it is gratifying to know, that although the war has raged for upwards of two years, the trade of Dundee was never in a more prosperous state than during that period." Among the notable toasts proposed, were "The Emperor of the French and the French People." At no moment, said its proposer, Mr. Burnett, could the peace with our late enemy have been more auspiciously concluded than at the present, when an heir is born to the French throne—a child in whose veins flows Scottish blood. Mr. W. E. Baxter, Member for Montrose, proposed "The President and the People of the United States," and delivered a neat and

pointed eulogy of America and its institutions. Among other things, he said—

"I care nothing about what is called the Monroe doctrine. 'America for the Americans' is no cherished maxim of mine; but this I do say, that nothing is more likely, nothing more natural, nothing is more desirable, than that a people so industrious and so well fitted for self-government as our Transatlantic cousins, should gradually extend their institutions over the entire continent of North America; and that, no matter what we do, or think, or say—whether Lord Palmerston for the nonce stands by his friend the King of the Mosquitos, or, like a wise man, abandons that mighty potentate to his fate—both Mexico and Central America will sooner or later be peopled and civilized by the American branch of the Anglo-Saxon race. We, at all events, have irons enough in the fire, without multiplying them in a quarter where we cannot, in the nature of things, maintain a footing long; and I for one hope that the people of both countries, tired of this diplomatic finessing and blundering, will take the matter into their own hands, and give their respective Governments distinctly to undertand, that war as to the terms of an apology, or the protectorate over a few savages, would be a fratricidal and a sinful war—that they wish an end put to this squabbling about mere trifles, when tremendous interests are at stake—and that the only contest which they will tolerate between Great Britain and America is as to which can do the most for the civilization and evangelization of the world." (*Great cheering.*)

An "accident" which might have been very disastrous occurred on the Caledonian Railway on Monday evening. Motherwell viaduct, twelve miles from Glasgow—a wooden structure sixty to eighty feet high—has but a single line of rails; on this viaduct an express and a luggage train met, with a smart collision; fortunately, the driver of the express, when he saw the danger, promptly reduced his speed as much as possible, or most likely the trains would have been pitched over the viaduct. Many passengers were hurt, but not dangerously, and no bones were broken: a guard suffered a good deal. The driver of the goods-train says his break was out of order; and thus he could not, in obedience to a danger-signal, prevent his train from entering the viaduct.

Foreign and Colonial.

France.—The treaty of peace was signed at Paris, by the Plenipotentiaries of the seven Powers, some time between one and two o'clock on Sunday. It had been preceded by a Council of Ministers at the Tuileries, over which the Emperor presided, and from which Count Walewski went to preside over the Conference. Seven copies of the treaty had been prepared. The Plenipotentiaries of each contracting Power signed first the copy reserved for their Government, and then the other Plenipotentiaries signed in alphabetical order. In this manner, each contracting Power figuring at the head of the signatures of the copy which it is to ratify, all difficulties as to etiquette or precedence were set aside. To each signature was immediately attached the private seal of each Plenipotentiary. The treaty was signed with a pen pulled from the wing of the "Imperial eagle" in the Jardin des Plantes. "The statement that it was ornamented with precious stones is contradicted. Immediately after the signature, the pen was attached to a sheet of pasteboard, and surrounded by the seals of each of the Powers represented at the Congress, and by the signatures of the Plenipotentiaries. M. Feuillet de Conches, the chef du bureau of the protocols, wrote underneath as follows—'I certify that this pen was pulled by me from the Imperial eagle of the Jardin des Plantes, and that it is the pen which was used for the signature of the treaty of peace of March 1856.' The pasteboard was afterwards framed and glazed, to be presented to the Empress."

As soon as the treaty was signed, a signal was given to the artillerymen at the Invalides, and a salute of 101 guns first proclaimed the fact to Paris. About half-past two o'clock, M. Pietri, the Prefect of the Seine, caused a placard to be posted at the Bourse announcing the signature of the treaty. When they had completed their task, the Plenipotentiaries waited on the Emperor, at the Tuileries.

"He is said to have expressed his thanks to the Plenipotentiaries for having come in person to him with such agreeable tidings. He observed that the result of their labours during the conferences was the complete realization of the speech delivered by Lord Clarendon in the House of Lords, and that the peace which the Allies were determined on concluding was one which carried with it no humiliation to Russia, and which did not compromise the dignity or independence of any one; it was, in fact, such as a great nation might propose or accept without degradation, and it therefore had all the elements of solidity and durability; and he added, that so favourable a result was in a great measure owing to the conciliatory spirit and moderation which marked the policy of England, and which was particularly felt in the course of the present conferences."

In the evening there was what is called a "spontaneous illumination" in Paris; but the spontaneity had been long prepared. It was very general, and very brilliant; and the Parisians are evidently delighted at the close of the war.

On Monday the event was formally announced in an Imperial message to the Senate and the Legislative Body; and the Emperor sent his thanks to them for their patriotism in supporting the war. That evening there was an "official" illumination, as distinguished from the "spontaneous" one of Sunday.

On Tuesday the Emperor reviewed 60,000 men in the Champ de Mars. Count Orloff rode close beside him all day. The *Moniteur* is careful to point out that the Emperor only wore one foreign order—the order of the Garter. The day was fine, and the military display was very successful. In the evening, Count Walewski entertained all the Plenipotentiaries, the Diplomatic Body, and the chief Officers of State. The *Moniteur* records the fact that "Count Walewski proposed, as a toast, 'The permanent duration of the peace.' 'The peace will be a lasting one,' he said, 'since it is honourable for all.' All the guests received this toast with the most marked satisfaction." But nobody made a reply.

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* tells a curious story respecting an incident in the Conferences, which, although it may not be closely accurate, is true-looking, and well worthy of attention. The writer says that his information came from a source so respectable that he ventures to assert that "something of the kind took place." In the first place, Count Cavour demanded that Sardinian vessels should not, either in ascending or descending the Danube, suffer any impediments. This was favourably received by the English, French, and Russian Plenipotentiaries—not so favourably by Count Buol on behalf of Austria. Count Cavour took a bolder step—he drew the attention of the Congress to the state of Italy.

Entering into details, "he dwelt on the danger of leaving so important a question undecided, and declared that the Congress ought not to separate without coming to some decision on the question. Count Buol expressed his surprise that such a subject should be brought before Plenipotentiaries assembled in congress on the Eastern and not on the Italian question, and maintained that it was not within their functions. Count Cavour disputed that opinion; he denied that the question was less Italian than European, and maintained that, as they were there met on matters relating to the general interest and welfare of Europe at large, Italy was a perfectly legitimate subject for their consideration. He declared that if something were not now done another Congress would have to assemble soon again. Count Buol disputed the right of Count Cavour to speak in the name of Italy; he was in Paris simply as the Plenipotentiary of the Piedmontese Government, and he had no authority to speak in the name of the Pope, the King of Naples, or the Grand Duke of Tuscany. Count Cavour replied, that he was there as an Italian, and that his right to speak for Italy was not less than that assumed by Count Buol, who spoke throughout in the name of Germany, whereas Austria was but a single member of the Confederation. Count Buol denied the analogy sought to be established between the two countries; the States of Italy had no resemblance to the Germanic Confederation: Austria was the most important member of that Confederation; as such she presided at the Diet, and therefore wherever Germanic interests were discussed the Plenipotentiary of Austria was perfectly entitled, where no other Germanic representative was present, to speak in the name of the whole: but such was not the case with Sardinia. With respect to the occupation of part of Italy by foreign troops, which, he presumed, was one of the grievances, it hardly became the Congress to discuss that point, seeing that one of the first effects of the resolution adopted by the Congress would be the occupation of part of the Sultan's dominions by French, English, and, if need be, by Sardinian troops. He again questioned the propriety of introducing a topic with which in nowise the present Congress had anything to do. Count Cavour said, that the object for which the Allied troops were to occupy the Sultan's dominions was very different from the occupation of Italy by foreign troops. The allies had made war in defence of the independence and integrity of Turkey, that independence and integrity having been endangered by Russia. The situation of Turkey as it was, and the peculiar condition of the subjects of the Sultan, were among the causes of that danger. The obligation imposed on the Allies was to protect the Porte not merely from immediate but from future peril, and the way to do so was by the removal of the causes which led to it. The Allies were not only bound to aid Turkey in her resistance to Russia, but also to aid her in preventing the recurrence of aggression. This prevention was by means of the reforms in the internal administration of the country, which the Ottoman Government had resolved on adopting; and the occupation of Turkey by the troops of the Powers in alliance with her was only with the view of enabling the Sultan to carry out those reforms. The Italian occupation was for a different object; it was for the protection of Governments who refused to introduce any reforms. M. Cavour also denied that the introduction of the Italian question was inopportune, or that it took the Congress by surprise. The observations which, he contended, he had a right to make, were nothing more than the development of a memorandum which had been drawn up by the Sardinian Government, at the request of the Emperor Napoleon, and presented to his Majesty. He made some further observations in the same sense, and again entreated the Congress to take the question into consideration, as, if they did not, he feared that before two years passed away the Italian question would force itself on the attention of Europe."

The *Journal des Débats* gives some particulars respecting points agreed to in the Conference, and its information is ascribed to the Russian Plenipotentiaries. The points stated are these. The treaty consists of a preamble and thirty-four articles. In the preamble is a declaration, proposed by Lord Clarendon, that the peace is due in an especial manner to the personal efforts of the Emperor of the French. The articles are, in substance, that no part of the Turkish empire shall continue to be occupied by the Allied armies; that the Hatti-Scherif shall not be annexed to the treaty of peace; that the Danube shall be absolutely free to the mercantile marine of the whole world. The "Congress" has become a sort of tribunal of European public law, to take note of what may become the subject of new conflicts. The state of Italy, and the war which the Governments wage against popular parties, and the reforms necessary to prevent revolution, were mentioned: the competency of the Congress to discuss such questions was debated, and it was resolved to return to them.

It is noticed as a "most remarkable coincidence" that Count Orloff "is the identical individual who, on the 30th of March 1814, being then Colonel Orloff, aide-de-camp to the Emperor Alexander, affixed the first signature to the capitulation of Paris; and on the 30th of March 1856, he signed the treaty of peace of the Congress of Paris."

The *Moniteur* states that "the Emperor has just decided that the soldiers of the class of 1848, who have hitherto been kept in service in virtue of the Army Recruiting Bill of the 21st of March 1832, shall be sent back to their homes. The Minister of War has given orders for this liberation to be immediately carried out."

A body of troops between 6000 and 7000 strong are to be embarked immediately for Algeria.

Russia.—The style of proclaiming peace at St. Petersburg would seem to show that Russia considers herself to be victorious. We talk about the "objects of the war" being gained, and we think *we* have gained them; whereas, according to the St. Petersburg version, it is *Russia* who is gainer.

"An Imperial manifesto was issued at St. Petersburg on the 1st instant, relative to the conclusion of peace. It says, that though the war was not sought by Russia, it had been waged with great energy by the Russian people. The rights of the Christians in the East were assured; thus the object of the war had been attained. Special arrangements had been made to prevent collisions between Turkish and Russian vessels in the Black Sea, and a new line of frontier had been agreed upon in Bessarabia."

Baron Brunow has informed the French Government that the Emperor of Russia has taken off the prohibition which prevented the Russian nobles from visiting France. Such is one report; another is, that the prohibition to travel is to be removed altogether.

The Paris *Moniteur de la Flotte* states that orders have been issued at Cronstadt to fit out five war-steamers by the middle of May. The report at Cronstadt is, that the Emperor and his brothers will visit England and France during the summer.

Prussia.—The news of peace reached Berlin on Sunday evening, and was most welcome. The Court were at dinner at Charlottenburg when the telegraphic despatch came to hand; and "on the spur of the moment"—dinner, we suppose, being first disposed of—the entire party "returned thanks in the Royal chapel of the Schloss there, which was

specially illuminated for the occasion. The unusually joyous pealing of the bells attracted thither also a numerous party of the inhabitants of Charlottenburg, and of the Berliners who happened to be spending the day there. It is a singular historical coincidence, that it was also on March 30, in the year 1763, that Friedrich II. returned thanks in the same chapel for the conclusion of a peace at the end of the Seven-Years War."

The intelligence was known throughout Berlin on Monday, but there were no public rejoicings. Baron von Manteuffel is to be invested with the grand cordon of the order of the Black Eagle.

The Upper House had granted permission, in reply to an application to the military authorities, to put Herr von Rochow and Herr von der Marwitz his second on their trial for participation in the Hinckeldey duel.

The Crimea.—The intelligence from the Crimea comes down to the 22d March. The French officers and soldiers kept up a close intercourse with their "late enemies" across the Tchernaya; the British officers were restricted, by general orders, to shooting on the left bank of that river. For the rest, amusements of all available kinds seemed to be the order of the day,—foot and hurdle races, theatrical representations, excursions in search of the picturesque. In the mean time, the work of demolition was still going on in Sebastopol. The *Times* "special correspondent," writing on the 22d March, gives a striking picture of Sebastopol as it now is.

"The demolition of trenches, works, and houses in the city, continues daily and incessantly; so that the South side will soon be as desolate and ruinous as Thebes or Palmyra. Every hour long trains of men pass by with beams of timber and planks on their shoulders, which are taken out of the remains of the White Buildings. Had fire been rained down from heaven on the devoted city, its annihilation could not have been more complete. The stranger who halts to survey it from the neighbouring heights, deceived by the whitewashed and plastered walls of the houses, might think that Sebastopol was still a city; but when he walks through its grass-grown, deserted streets, formed by endless rows of walls alone, of roofless shells of houses, in which not one morsel of timber can be seen, from threshold to eaves; when he beholds great yawning craters, half-filled with mounds of cut stone, heaped together in irregular masses; when he gazes on tumuli of disintegrated masonry,—once formidable forts, and now shaken, as it were, into dust and powder; when he stumbles over the fragments of imperial edifices, to peer down into the great gulfs, choked up with rubbish, which now mark the site of the grand docks of the Queen of the Euxine; and beholds the rotting masts and hulls of the sunken navy, which was nurtured there; when he observes that what the wrath of the enemy has spared is fast crumbling away beneath the fire of its friends, and that the churches where they worshiped, the theatres, the public monuments, are specially selected for the practice of the Russian gunners, as though they were emulous of running a race in destruction with the Allied armies,—he will no doubt come to the conclusion that the history of the world affords no such authentic instance of the annihilation of a great city. * * * * The shells of princely mansions which remained on the French side of the town have been battered to atoms by the Russian batteries on the North side; the theatre has been demolished, and the beautiful church of St. Peter and St. Paul laid in ruins by the same implacable foe; and they have directed particular volleys of round shot and shell on a monument to one of their naval heroes, which stands conspicuously placed in front of a beautiful little kiosk in the midst of a garden, to which there was a fine approach from the place behind Fort Nicholas by a handsome flight of steps, now knocked to pieces."

A fire occurred in the huts of the Commissariat Works Corps, on the slope above Kadikoi, on the night of St. Patrick's Day. Assistance was speedily rendered, but the huts were entirely consumed; and sixteen bodies were found next day, burnt beyond recognition. An inquest was held, and a verdict of "Accidental death" returned.

India.—The overland mail arrived in London on Wednesday, with advices from Bombay to the 5th March, and Calcutta to the 23d February.

Lord Canning arrived at Calcutta on the 29th February, and immediately took the oaths of his office. Lord Dalhousie, it was expected, would embark on the 6th or 7th March. A meeting had been held in Bombay to vote a farewell address to Lord Dalhousie; but it was "less fully attended than might have been expected." The address adopted recognized the great abilities of the late Governor-General, his successful termination of great wars, the introduction during his proconsulate of the railroad and the electric telegraph, of a cheap postage and a national system of education; and, while avowing frankly a dissent from his views on some points, it proclaimed him "one of the most able, energetic, and honest statesmen to whom the destinies of India have been intrusted." An enthusiastic meeting held for the same purpose in Calcutta voted "an address and a statue by acclamation."

Lord Harris had determined, subject to approval from home, to modify the tenure of land in Madras. Hitherto there has been an annual settlement between the Government and some 5,000,000 peasants. "This settlement was made by a calculation of the gross produce of each separate patch of land. Government then took 35 per cent of this as its rent, and left the remainder to the cultivator. It was, of course, impossible for the European to examine each patch. He intrusted the duty to natives, who made their power an instrument of extortion. The tenure, therefore, became wholly insecure. If a Ryot sunk a well, his rent was raised; if he cut a small canal, it was nearly doubled. There was therefore no possibility of improvement. Moreover, the land being divided among cottiers, whose only capital was their labour, two bad seasons reduced them to the verge of starvation. In such cases, the whole revenue was occasionally lost in remissions. Of course, nobody ever grew rich, and in all the Presidency there are probably not ten farmers worth 1000*l*. The area of cultivation is only one-fifth the area of the Presidency, and shows no tendency to increase. Lord Harris therefore has proposed to modify this tenure. He would reduce the tax from 35 to 25 per cent upon the gross produce. He would fix this proportion for fifty years, and thus allow the Ryot the benefit of his own improvements. Moreover, he would change the rent in produce into a rent in specie, according to a sliding scale. The market-price of grain is to be settled on the average of seven years, and the produce-rent commuted, like tithes in England. The change will involve the loss of nearly one-third of the land-revenues of Madras. It is considered, however, that the temptation to clear new lands will compensate for the loss, while the absence of remissions will make the revenue more steady."

Some statistical tables published by the *Friend of India* give a favourable idea of the exporting capabilities of that country. The exports of wheat from Calcutta have increased nearly 100 per cent over those of 1854-'55; the exports of rice have increased by 140 per cent, hides by 50 per cent, jute by 24 per cent, linseed by 40 per cent, and mustard-seed by some 280 per cent. The supply is practically boundless; at present its only limit is the cost of carriage. The distant provinces cannot send their products because the cost of transit consumes the profit. With good means of communication in our Indian empire, "England might be independent for its supply of food both of America and Russia." It is estimated that good wheat from the Dooab might be profitably sold in London for 50*s*. a quarter

Dost Mahomed has taken possession of Candahar, so long the object of his ambitious desires. His nephew, the son of the late chief of Candahar, has escaped to Persia.

Miscellaneous.

Miss Nightingale and the Soldier's Widow.—The wife of a private in the Eighty-ninth Regiment, serving in the East, not having for many months heard from her husband, wrote to Miss Nightingale, begging for information. Miss Nightingale's admirable letter in reply should be preserved as one of the most interesting documents of the Russian war.

"Scutari, Barrack Hospital, March 5.

"Dear Mrs. Lawreance—I was exceedingly grieved to receive your letter, because I have only sad news to give you in return. Alas! in the terrible time which we had here last year, when we lost from 70 to 80 men per day in these hospitals alone, many widows have had to suffer like you; and your husband was, I regret to say, among the number. He died in this hospital, February 20, 1855, just at the time when our mortality reached its height, of fever and dysentery; and on that day we buried 80 men.

"In order that I might be sure that there was no mistake of name, and that there were not two men of the same name, I wrote up to the Colonel of his regiment; who confirms the sad news in the note I enclose; and, though he is mistaken in the precise date of your husband's death, there is no mistake, alas! in the fact. I wished to get this reply before I wrote to you.

"Your husband's balance due to him was 1*l*. 2*s*. 4½*d*.; which was remitted home to the Secretary of War September 25, 1855; from whom you can have it on application.

"As you were not aware of being a widow, you are, of course, not in receipt of any allowance as a widow; you should therefore make application to Lieutenant-Colonel Lefroy, R.A., Hon. Secretary, Patriotic Fund, 16 A, Great George Street, Westminster, London.

"I enclose the necessary papers for you to fill up. Your Colonel's letter will be sufficient proof of your husband's death. I enclose it for that purpose.

"You will state all particulars about your children.

"Your minister will help you to fill it up.

"I am very sorry for you and your trouble. Should you have any difficulty about the Patriotic Fund, you may make use of this letter, which will be sufficient evidence for you to produce of your being a widow.

"With sincere sympathy for your great loss, I remain, yours truly,

"Florence Nightingale.

"To Mrs. Mary Ann Lawreance, Widow of Private William Lawreance, 89th Regiment."

Major Powys informs the *Times* that Mrs. Lawreance had fortunately been relieved as a soldier's wife by the Central Association. He says that "widows are never actually without an allowance, either from the Central Association as wives, or from the Patriotic Fund as widows."

The Church in Constantinople.—A large and influential committee composed partly of naval and military officers, partly of clergymen an civilians, has been formed with the view of raising funds for the erection of a church in Constantinople, as the most appropriate monument to the memory of those who fell in the late war and of gratitude to God for the restoration of peace. A public meeting will shortly be held for the promotion of this object, under the presidency of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has already received upwards of 1000*l*. in aid of this object.—*Times*.

Colonel Sir H. Rawlinson, K.C.B., has been appointed to succeed General Sir George Pollock as one of the nominated Directors of the East India Company.

A testimonial of plate, subscribed by Sir Joseph Paxton and season-ticket holders of the Crystal Palace, has been given to Mr. Henry Schallehn, in acknowledgment of his original formation and management of the Crystal Palace Band.

Death of Sir Charles Hotham.—Sir Charles Hotham, Governor of Victoria, died at Melbourne on the 31st December. There was a Ministerial crisis in the Government of the colony. Sir Charles, a man of excitable temperament, was deeply anxious for the result; and the excitement is supposed to have led to his death. On the 22d December he was attacked by "choleraic diarrhœa"; but in two days he recovered sufficiently to attend to public affairs. On the 17th December he was present at the lighting of the first fire at the gas-works, and caught a severe cold. Afterwards, during the Ministerial crisis, he complained of headache and nervous irritation. When he learned that Mr. Nicholson had abandoned the attempt to form a Government, he suddenly became worse. "Serous irritation of the brain developed itself"; two days later, he was seized with an epileptic fit; the fits continued at intervals for several hours, until he "became comatose, with heavy sterterous breathing, in which state he continued until he expired." His medical attendants attributed his death "to the very severe strain upon the mental powers that Sir Charles had undergone during the period of his government of the colony, superadded to a violent cold which he had caught on the occasion of his attending the lighting of the first fire at the gas-works."

Sir Charles was born in 1806: he served with distinction in the Navy, especially in the La Plata and Parana, and as Commodore of the African squadron; and afterwards in the diplomatic service. In 1853 he was appointed Governor of Victoria.

Death of Mr. Justice Torrens.—Judge Torrens, one of the Irish Judges lately attacked for old age in the House of Commons, died at Derrynoid Lodge, Londonderry, on Saturday evening, in his eighty-first year. He had despatched, in conjunction with Baron Pennefather, the business of the North-west Circuit, and had only been absent one day from indisposition. "Judge Torrens," the *Freeman's Journal* states, "was called to the bar in Michaelmas term 1798, and raised to the bench in 1823. Thus he had been for fifty-eight years a member of the bar, and thirty-three a Judge. He never filled any of the higher offices of the law, having attained only the rank of sergeant; but the influence of his brother, Sir Henry Torrens, who occupied a distinguished position in the Army, and was deep in the

confidence of George the Fourth when Prince Regent, secured the elevation of his brother to the bench."

Death of Sir W. W. Wynn—Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, an old public servant, died on the 28th March, at Lanvoida in Shropshire, aged seventy-three. Sir Watkin was the third son of the fourth baronet of the same name; and was born in 1783. In 1799 he entered the Foreign Office as a clerk; and in 1801 he was sent by the late Lord Grenville as British Envoy to the Elector of Saxony, at whose court he remained until 1803. For a short time, Mr. Wynn sat in Parliament for Midhurst; but he did not appear again in public life till 1822, when he went as Minister to Switzerland. From this post he was transferred in 1823 to Stuttgard, and in 1824 to Copenhagen, where he remained till 1853. Sir Watkin was created a Knight Bachelor in 1831, and became G.C.B. in 1851.

Death of Sir William Symonds.—Admiral Symonds, well known as Surveyor of the Navy from 1832 to 1847, died on his passage from Malta to Marseilles; at which place his remains were landed on the 1st instant. Sir William's father was a Captain in the Navy. From an early age the name of the deceased was borne on the books of his father's ships; but he did not go to sea as a midshipman until 1794. During the French war he was engaged in several smart actions. He gained, however, more distinction as a naval architect than as a naval officer. In 1825 he was allowed to build a corvette called the Columbine; which answered so well that from Commander he was raised to the rank of Post-Captain. In 1831, "through the munificence of the Duke of Portland," he built the Pantaloon, a ten-gun brig, as an improvement on the Columbine: and the result of this experiment was the appointment of Captain Symonds as Surveyor of the Navy. In 1836 King William conferred upon him the honour of knighthood. He was succeeded in 1847 as Surveyor of the Navy by Sir Baldwin Walker.

Result of the Registrar-General's return of mortality in the Metropolis for the week ending on Saturday last.

	Ten Weeks of 1846-'55.		Week of 1856.
Zymotic Diseases	223.8	....	228
Dropsy, Cancer, and other Diseases of uncertain or variable seat	55.1	....	67
Tubercular Diseases	207.0	....	198
Diseases of the Brain, Spinal Marrow, Nerves, and Senses	144.1	....	161
Diseases of the Heart and Blood-vessels	50.7	....	75
Diseases of the Lungs, and of the other Organs of Respiration	240.6	....	249
Diseases of the Stomach, Liver, and other Organs of Digestion	67.6	....	71
Diseases of the Kidneys, &c.	11.9	....	11
Childbirth, Diseases of the Uterus, &c.	11.1	....	11
Rheumatism, Diseases of the Bones, Joints, &c.	8.9	....	8
Diseases of the Skin, Cellular Tissue, &c.	2.3	....	4
Malformations	3.9	....	4
Premature Birth	30.7	....	34
Atrophy	30.1	....	36
Age	50.4	....	56
Sudden	41.0	....	40
Violence, Privation, Cold, and Intemperance	109.7	....	131
Total (including unspecified causes	1284.7		1395

Mr. Vernon Smith gave a dinner to the Cabinet Ministers on Wednesday: Earl Granville was too unwell to attend.

The "Golden Lectureship" in Lothbury will soon be vacant by the resignation of Mr. Melvill, who has been appointed Canon of St. Paul's. There are already many candidates for the clerical prize.

Colonel Turr reached Corfu, under an Austrian guard, on the 16th of last month: he was delivered up to the British authorities, and he soon after left the island for Constantinople.

Mr. Chisholm Anstey has arrived at Hongkong, and has been sworn in as the Queen's Attorney-General for the colony.

Lord Portarlington has been making a protracted stay at Ipsamboul in Nubia, excavating antiquities.

Two remarkable circumstances attended the celebration of the Te Deum at Madrid and Malta in honour of the birth of the "Imperial Prince." Lord Howden absented himself from the Spanish celebration, and the *Moniteur* has copied a paragraph from a journal noticing the fact. At Malta, a "sort of throne" was erected for the Governor in the Church Del Carmine. The French Consul, French officers, and British officers of both services—everybody was there—except the Governor. His absence, "was rendered more remarkable by the prominent position of his unoccupied seat, which, being raised above the rest, was distinctly seen by all the congregation." It is not explained.

The Bishop of Oxford has sent round to the Churchwardens in his diocese a circular of inquiries, among which was—"Does your officiating clergyman preach the gospel; and are his conversation and carriage consistent therewith?" A Churchwarden near Wallingford replied, "He preaches the gospel, but only keeps a gig."

The boatmen of Deal and Ramsgate have petitioned the Board of Trade for increased salvage-dues, to remunerate them properly for their long watches and exertions. They ask for an allowance of one-third of the duties payable on articles that they save, and that the general salvage be increased from two-fifths to six-twelfths of the value of the property rescued.

A recent report of the Inspectors of Prisons in Great Britain, containing statistics for ten years, shows that crime does not increase so fast in proportion as population: while, at the present rate, population would double itself in 58·5 years, crime would only double itself in 64·6 years.

The Patriotic Fund subscriptions now amount to upwards of 1,400,000*l.*

The Central Association in aid of the widows and families of soldiers have received 121,704*l.*, and disbursed upwards of 90,000*l.*; 6562 wives of soldiers, 8984 children, and 232 widows whose sons have served in the East, have been aided.

The subscriptions to the Nightingale Fund are now about 25,000*l.*

A "Sailors' Home" is to be established at Constantinople: 1648*l.* has already been subscribed; the Queen, as patroness, heads the list with 100*l.*

During the last fifteen years about 16,000*l.* has been spent in the renovation of Glasgow Cathedral; and it is said that the money has been very advantageously laid out. Recently, considerable alterations were made in the interior, and the cathedral was reopened for public worship last Sunday.

Mehemet Ali in his time had the intelligence to see that his existence and power depended in a great measure upon the good opinion of Europe; and the general principles laid down in the recent Imperial decree of the Sultan have long been tacitly recognized in Egypt. The Christians have not been subjected to more rigorous laws than the Mahomedans, and many of them are in the army. No difficulties have been made with regard to the possession of landed property by Europeans, though the latter hitherto have felt some uncertainty as to their titles. Christian churches have been raised in Egypt wherever they are required, without molestation; and Mehemet Ali generally made a gift of the ground for their erection. The English Protestant Church occupies a most prominent position in the great square of Alexandria: the Roman Catholics have two churches, and the Greeks have just completed a very fine large church. All toll their own bells.—*Times Correspondent.*

Two important sources of revenue to the city of Hamburg arise the one from a disgraceful source and the other from a nuisance,—a tax upon the "unfortunate" class of women, and a toll upon all persons passing between Hamburg and Altona after a certain hour in the evening.

The Portuguese complain that they have this year got "the English climate"—for a third time heavy rains have set in, destroying the grain sown by flooding low lands.

The cultivation of the mulberry-tree and the breeding of silk-worms are reported to be making great progress in Poland—under the auspices of a company apparently.

The Greeks are largely cultivating land in and about Jerusalem, planting olives and mulberry-trees, and building silk-mills.

The emigrants who sailed from Liverpool last month were fewer than in the corresponding period of any of the preceding four years—only 6618.

The long continuance of Northerly and Easterly winds has blown the Zuyderzee quite dry in places; a phenomenon not witnessed for half a century.

Later advices from Melbourne confirm the report of the loss of the mail-ship Schomberg. On the night of the 27th December, she ran on a sand-spit thirty-five miles West of Cape Otway; passengers, crew, and mails, were saved. Mr. Forbes, the master, ascribes the disaster to the action of a current hitherto unknown, the spit itself not being laid down on the charts. But his passengers accuse him of losing the ship by negligence, arising from his debauched habits. They held an "indignation" meeting at Melbourne, in which they denounced the conduct of most of the officers: the master and surgeon were improperly intimate with female passengers; the duties of the ship were not properly attended to; the provisions, liquors, and water, were not according to the dietary-tables—in short, hardly anything was as it should be. The Government authorities were about to inquire into the matter.

Walker has introduced a new kind of freedom of the press—or freedom with the press—into Nicaragua. His followers were discontented at the newspaper of the place not having punctually appeared; Walker intimated that if the parties engaged on it did not produce it by a certain time he would arrest them: editors and printers set to work, and got the paper ready for printing as a file of soldiers approached the office.

The Dublin *Nation* has an article to show the probability that John Sadleir is still alive! The story is, that he placed the corpse of another man on Hampstead Heath, arranged everything to deceive people into a belief of his suicide, and fled with large sums of money that he got together just before his suicide, and that still remain unaccounted for.

BIRTHS.

On the 26th March, at Creebridge House, N.B., Mrs. Edward Heron Maxwell, of a son.

On the 27th, at Halfod, Cardiganshire, the Wife of Sir G. J. Thomas, Bart., of a son.

On the 28th, in Eaton Place South, the Hon. Mrs. Charles Spring Rice, of a son.

On the 29th, at Bradfield, Devon, the Hon. Mrs. Walrond, of a daughter.

On the 29th, at Greystoke Castle, Cumberland, Mrs. Howard, of a daughter.

On the 29th, in Rutland Gate, the Countess of Munster, of a son and heir.

On the 30th, in Great Stanhope Street, the Hon. Mrs. Cust, of a son.

On the 31st, in Eaton Place, Lady Perry, of a son.

On the 31st, at Sibton Park, Suffolk, the Wife of J. W. Brooke, Esq., of a son and heir.

On the 2d April, at Overbury Court, Worcestershire, the Lady Catherine Berkeley, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 29th September 1855, at Christchurch, Nelson, N. Z., by the Rev. H. Butt, Arthur Shuckburgh, only son of William Collins, Esq., of Nelson, to Katherine Ann, youngest daughter of the late Thomas Isaacson, Esq., of Brighton, and niece of the Rev. J. F. Isaacson, Rector of Freshwater, Isle of Wight.

On the 24th March, at Nice, Harry Chester, Esq., of Highgate, and the Privy Council Office, to Henrietta Mary, eldest daughter of George Goff, Esq.

On the 27th, at the Abbey Church, Bath, the Hon. Frederick John Hobart, second son of the Right Hon. and Rev. the Earl of Buckinghamshire, to Catherine Annesley, youngest daughter of the Right Rev. Bishop Carr.

On the 29th, at St. George's Church, Hanover Square, Charles Stirling Dundas, Esq., son of Mr. Dundas and the Lady Mary Dundas, of Dundas Castle, to Mary Louisa, eldest daughter of Sir Norton and Lady Knatchbull, of Mersham Hatch, Kent.

On the 2d April, at Stone Church, by the Lord Bishop of Lichfield, Peter Broughton jun., Esq., of Tunstall Hall, near Market Drayton, to Florence, daughter of Swynfen Jervis, of Darlastan Hall, Stone, Staffordshire.

On the 3d, at St. Mary's, Bryanston Square, Sir William Carpenter Rowe, Chief Justice of Ceylon, to Frances Elizabeth, youngest daughter of James Hamilton Storey, Esq., of Bryanston Square, and Lockington, Cavan.

On the 3d, at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, the Lady Rachel Russell, youngest daughter of the late Duke of Bedford, to Lord James Wandesford Butler, brother of the late Marquis of Ormonde.

On the 3d, at St. James's, Piccadilly, the Ven. J. Sandford, B.D., Archdeacon of Coventry, Rector of Alvechurch, to Anna, widow of David Montagu, second Baron Erskine.

DEATHS.

On the 3d November, at Swan River, Western Australia, accidentally drowned, William Hinton Campbell, eldest son of Major Campbell, of Queen's Gardens, Hyde Park.

On the 29th February, at the Rectory in St. John's, Thomas Finch Hobday Bridge, M.A., Archdeacon of Newfoundland and Labrador, Rector of St. John's, and Garrison Chaplain; in his 49th year.

On the 15th March, at the Home Wood, Toronto, Canada, Sarah, wife of the Rev. Thomas Schreiber, and third daughter of the late Admiral Bingham, of Grove House, Lymington, Hampshire; in her 51st year.

On the 20th, Susannah, relict of the late Philip Chasemore, of Horsham, Sussex; in her 90th year.

On the 27th, in Addison Road, Kensington, Jane, relict of the late Wm. Fynmore, Esq., of Craven Street, Strand, and Kensington; in her 93d year.

On the 27th, at the Star and Garter, Putney, Sir Rupert Dennis George, Bart., C.B., late Secretary of the Colony of Nova Scotia; in his 60th year.

On the 27th, in Grafton Street, Catherine, Countess of Pembroke; in her 73d year.

On the 28th, in St. John's Wood, Richard Wellesley Rothman, Esq., Senior Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Registrar of the University of London.

On the 28th, at Llanvorda, Salop, the Right Hon. Sir Henry Watkin Williams Wynn, K.C.B., G.C.H., formerly her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Copenhagen; in his 73d year.

On the 29th, at Kingussie, Inverness-shire, suddenly, the Rev. Charles Grant.

On the 29th, at Derrynoid Lodge, Londonderry, Judge Torrens; in his 81st year.

On the 30th, at Zoaufques, in France, the Hon. Mortimer Rodney, brother of the late Lord Rodney; in his 64th year.

On the 30th, at 56, George Square, Edinburgh, Eleanor, youngest daughter of Thomas Leburn, Esq.

On the 30th, the Lady Honora Elizabeth Hester Harvey, eldest daughter of the late Earl of Cavan; in her 72d year.

On the 30th, on his passage from Malta to Marseilles, on his return to England, Rear-Admiral Sir William Symonds, K.B., ex-Surveyor of the Navy; in his 74th year.

On the 2d April, at Frouderw, Llanrwst, Denbighshire, Lieutenant-General Thomas Wilson, C.B., of Beaurepaire; in his 78th year.

On the 3d, the Right Hon. George Robert Dawson, of Moyola Park, Castledawson, Ireland, and of Upper Grosvenor Street, Deputy-Chairman of the Board of Customs; in his 65th year.

POSTSCRIPT.

SATURDAY.

The greater portion of last evening was taken up in the House of Commons by another chapter in the endless dispute between Sir James Graham and Sir Charles Napier; but the only proceeding of great interest was a conversation on the Central American difficulty.

Lord GODERICH read the despatch of 10th November 1855 from Lord Clarendon to Mr. Crampton, in which the Foreign Secretary directs Mr. Crampton to inform Mr. Marcy that the British Government would still abide by the offer of arbitration on the Central American question, made to Mr. Buchanan and declined; and another despatch from Mr. Crampton to Mr. Marcy, showing that the former had neglected to do so until the 27th February 1856, Lord Clarendon's direction "having escaped his attention" before. Lord Goderich wished to ask whether these despatches—they had been published in the newspapers—were authentic; and whether two months did elapse between the receipt of the despatch by Mr. Crampton and its communication to the American Government?

Before Lord Palmerston could reply, Mr. GLADSTONE rose, saying he wished to call attention to the position of the House in respect to the Central American question. It appeared that the correspondence between the two Governments on that question was held as concluded some months ago. When Lord Palmerston was asked for that correspondence soon after the beginning of the session, he said that it was separate from the still open correspondence respecting recruiting, and might be produced; yet to this hour nothing has been seen or heard of those papers. In reply to a question put to him a few days ago, Lord Palmerston had said the papers had been delayed because the Foreign Office was so much occupied with other matters. Mr. Gladstone would not say whether the papers ought to be produced, but he would confidently say that their production ought not to be delayed from week to week and from month to month because persons in the Foreign Office are much occupied with other matters. The subject is a great deal too important to allow any obstacle of that kind to intervene. Were they to understand—what would be far more agreeable—that the correspondence is *not* closed; that no ultimatum has been exchanged; that there is hope of bringing the question to an amicable conclusion?

"Sir, it appears to me that this House will incur a very heavy responsibility, if, after we have been told that the Government has ceased to deal with a question of this nature, we do not demand information with regard to it. Where the responsibility of the Government ends there the responsibility of the House of Commons begins. And what happens? While we thus go on from month to month—while Parliament is silent on the question—though I do not want the voice of Parliament to be heard as long as the Government feels that an amicable arrangement may be concluded—while our mouths are kept shut from the want of official information, other voices go forth; other voices, which, I must say, have sounded a note the most opposed to wisdom, to justice, and to peace, as well as to those friendly—I would almost venture to say affectionate—relations that I am sure every man in this House would wish to see prevailing between Great Britain and the United States. (*Cheers.*)

It is rumoured that additions are to be made to the military force in Canada: before that be done, he hoped "the House of Commons would have an opportunity of uttering its voice." If the Government have done with the Central American question, the House ought to have the papers. But he would far rather hear that a perfectly good understanding may still be established between Great Britain and the United States. (*Cheers.*)

Lord PALMERSTON began his reply as follows, answering Mr. Gladstone first—

"My right honourable friend knows as well as any man what is the organization of the various Governmental departments, and how the business in each of them is performed. He knows as well as any man that those departments, efficient as they may be for general purposes, are not calculated to deal quickly with extraordinary and unexpected circumstances. But yet my right honourable friend has blamed the Government, and the Foreign Office especially, for not having produced these papers at an earlier period. My right honourable friend has referred in a slighting manner to the other business which the Foreign Office has lately had to transact. ["*No, no!*" *from Mr. Gladstone, and general expressions of dissent.*] I beg his pardon, he has done so." ["*No, no!*"] The Foreign Office had been occupied with a most difficult and important negotiation; and there had been a great pressure on it for the Kars papers. As regards the papers on the Central American question, "they are nearly completed," and in a few days he hoped to lay them before Parliament. He would not follow Mr. Gladstone into a discussion of the question, but would contentedly wait for the judgment of the House—"when it has before it the materials to form an opinion."

The despatches read by Lord Goderich were, he believed, correct copies. No inconvenience "could accrue to the public service from any accidental delay, [on the part of Mr. Crampton,] because the instructions upon the part of Lord Clarendon had already been communicated to Mr. Buchanan, at that time the Ambassador of the United States in this country; and I think that that will be seen from the papers which will be shortly laid before this House with regard to the Central American question."

[It will be remarked that Lord Palmerston made no reply to that part of Mr. Gladstone's speech which referred to the rumoured increase of the British forces in Canada.]

On the order of the day for going into Committee of Supply, Sir JAMES GRAHAM, to vindicate his veracity, impeached by Sir Charles Napier in a letter to the *Times*, made a long statement, including the reading of many documents, illustrating and reflecting on the conduct of Sir Charles at the siege of Acre. Sir CHARLES NAPIER, on his part, made a speech of equal length and detail, and brought forward counter-evidence; among the rest, a disclaimer from Sir Robert Stopford of any intention of passing a censure when he objected to Sir Charles's conduct in departing from instructions. Admiral BERKELEY, Mr. LINDSAY, Mr. ROEBUCK, Mr. MALINS, and Admiral WALCOTT, took part in the debate; the latter four siding with Sir Charles.

In Committee of Supply, on the vote of 227,641*l.* for national education in Ireland, Mr. WILLIAMS first took exception to the item 5175*l.* for the "Albert Agricultural Training Establishment and Model Farm" at Glasnevin. Mr. BLACKBURN followed. Out of the 227,000*l.*, 17,000*l.* is spent in agricultural schools, 23,000*l.* in model schools, 10,000*l.* on mixed schools, and 36,000*l.* for management; so that only 140,000*l.* found its way to the actual working school. Mr. WILLIAMS moved to reduce the vote by 23,905*l.* This led to a smart debate, in which Lord Palmerston and Mr. Disraeli figured as principals. Lord PALMERSTON said, that the money could not be better expended than in teaching the ignorant Irish peasants how to cultivate the soil. Mr. DISRAELI retorted, that they might as well teach cotton-spinning. Where is the line to be drawn? Might there not be a model mill, or a model bakery? Lord PALMERSTON admitted the principle that money should not be expended in advancing the condition of the people; but "the condition of Ireland is an exception to all rules," because it had been "the victim of class legislation" and "misgovernment on the part of this country." Mr. DISRAELI, who seemed disposed to vote for the amendment, withdrew his opposition on the understanding that the whole subject should be referred to the Educational Commissioners for revision. Mr. Williams's amendment was then negatived by 144 to 38; and another amendment, for making small reductions, shared a similar fate.

The House of Lords was entirely occupied with the Agricultural Statistics Bill. In Committee the Earl of DERBY moved an amendment substituting the Board of Trade for the Poor-law Board in the first clause of the bill. He objected to a divided authority in reference to the collection of information. The amendment was negatived by 18 to 13; and the bill, with a few amendments, passed through Committee.

The "Baltic Fleet" no longer exists in official recognition; it was merged into the home fleet yesterday, when Rear-Admiral Dundas and Rear-Admiral Baynes gave up their respective appellations of Commander-in-chief and Second-in-command of the Baltic Fleet.

A serious conflict is reported to have taken place, on Thursday, at Templemore races in Ireland. The origin of the riot was the rescue from arrest of a female pickpocket. Two soldiers are stated to have died yesterday. The Bridewell is full of prisoners.

MONEY MARKET.

STOCK EXCHANGE, FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

The intelligence from Paris at the close of last week prepared the public for receiving the announcement on Monday, that the treaty of peace had been signed; and the improvement in the Funds consequently was not more than ⅜ per cent. Consols were done at 93¼. They have been comparatively steady since, notwithstanding some realization of profits; and this is partly owing to a reduction in the rate of discount by the Bank of France—it had previously stood at 6, and is now 5 per cent. From the extent of the recent purchases of bullion at a loss up to within the last few days, and from the probability that peace will augment the long-existing rage for speculation in Paris, the measure has been considered premature; but as it must exercise a further favourable influence on the Continental exchanges, it has led to a supposition that the Bank of England may soon adopt some preliminary step towards lowering their rate, by removing the additional demand now made for discounting bills of long date. At the meeting yesterday, the rates were not disturbed. Today, the Funds have presented no particular feature. Consols have ranged from 92¾ to 93¼, and leave off 92⅝ 3, and 93 ¼ for Account. Exchequer Bills have been dull, and are 1*s.* lower. Since the conclusion of peace, the Funds in Paris have fallen more than 1 per cent, from numerous sales connected with the settlement just concluded on the Bourse; and the decline would have been more severe but for the relief afforded by the reduction in the rate of discount. Nevertheless, from 15 to 18 per cent was paid for continuing operations to the end of the month. Since the adjustment of the Account, the French Funds have rallied about ¾. The discount market has been easier: in the Stock Exchange, short loans on Government Securities are now obtained at about 5 per cent.

Specie has been received from the West Indies amounting to 565,000*l.*, and from America amounting to 160,000*l.*: a large portion is likely to remain in this country. The shipments of specie for India and China by the Pera are heavy, forming a total of 487,144*l.*: a large portion—384,585*l.*—was in silver.

In Foreign Stocks, there has been considerable activity; and an improvement of 1 per cent has been established in several instances, including Austrian, Chilian, Dutch Four, Spanish Three per Cents, and Buenos Ayres. Mexican is 1⅛, Danish Three per Cents 1½, and Brazilian ½ better. In the securities more liable to be influenced by the return of peace, the advance in Turkish Six per Cents has been the most conspicuous; amounting at one period to 5 per cent—they have been done at 103½: there has been since a reaction of 1 per cent. In Turkish Four per Cents the rise has been 1¾; and in Russian and Sardinian 1.

In Railways, the operations have been very numerous; and an advance of 15*s.* to 30*s.*, which occurred on Monday, was well maintained; and in some instances followed by further improvement, up to Wednesday afternoon. London and North-Western were then 102¾ 3; Great Western, 65 ½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 88½ 9; Midland, 75¼ ⅜. Yesterday there was a reaction of 5*s.* to 15*s.* Today there is very little alteration. In comparison with last week, the following improvement is still shown—London, Brighton, and South Coast, 3*l.*; Bristol and Exeter, East Lancashire, and London and South-Western, 2*l.*; Great Western, and London and North-Western, 1*l.* 5*s.*; Midland, North-Eastern—Berwick, and North-Eastern—York, 1*l.*; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 15*s.* In the French descriptions, Eastern of France, Northern of France, Paris and Lyons, and Paris and Orleans, are 1*l.* better.

SATURDAY, TWELVE O'CLOCK.

The English Funds are very quiet this morning; Consols for both Money and Account are 93 ¼. Exchequer Bills 2 discount par. The bullion return by the Bank of England shows an increase of 76,622*l.* In Foreign Stocks there is no change; the late improvement is well maintained. In Railways very little business has been transacted; the present bargains are—Great Northern, 94¾; North-Eastern—Berwick, 79; South Devon, 13¼.

SATURDAY, ONE O'CLOCK.

The English Funds have been stationary since the morning, and there has been nothing doing; Consols for Money and Account are 93¼. Exchequer Bills 2 discount par. In Foreign Stocks, Chilian is 1, and Mexican ½ better. Equador has been done at 5¼; Ditto New Consolidated 15, Equador Peruvian Dollar Bonds 58, Grenada Active 22, Ditto Deferred 7⅛, Greek 6½, Spanish Certificates 5¾ ¼.

Railways are a little higher—Eastern Counties, 10½; Great Northern, 94¾; Great Western, 65; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 88½; London and North-Western, 102¼; London and South-Western, 95¼; Midland, 75; North-Eastern—Berwick, 79¼; South Devon, 13¼; South-Eastern, 72¾; Great Western of Canada, 25⅝; Madras Guaranteed 4½ per Cent, 20½; Paris and Lyons, 51½. Joint Stock Banks—Commercial of London, 30⅝; London, 64½; London Chartered Bank of Australia, 17; London and County, 33½; New South Wales, 40½; Provincial of Ireland, 53; Union of London, 27¼. Miscellaneous—Australian Agricultural, 34; Canada Government 6 per Cent January and July, 109¾; General Screw Steam Shipping Company, 16⅛; Royal Mail Steam, 78.

3 per Cent Consols	93¼	Dutch 2½ per Cents	63 5
Ditto for Account	93¼	Ditto 4 per Cents	93 5 ex d.
3 per Cent Reduced	shut	Mexican 3 per Cents	22¾ 3
New 3 per Cents	shut	Peruvian 4½ per Cents	78 80
Long Annuities	shut	Ditto 3 per Cents	54 6 ex d.
Bank Stock	shut	Portuguese 4 per Cents	48 50
Exchequer Bills	2 dis. par	Russian 5 per Cents	104 6
India Stock	shut	Ditto 4½ per Cents	93 5
Austrian 5 per Cents	88 91	Spanish 3 per Cents	45¼ 6½
Brazilian 5 per Cents	99 101 ex d.	Ditto Deferred	24¼ 5½
Belgian 4½ per Cents	95 7	Sardinian 5 per Cents	94 6
Chilian 6 per Cents	101 3 ex d.	Swedish 4 per Cents	87 90
Danish 5 per Cents	101 3	Turkish 6 per Cents	101¼ 2
Danish 3 pe Cents	83 5 ex d.	Ditto 4 per Cents Guaranteed	101¼ 2

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 29th day of March 1856.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£24,306,979	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	3,490,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	9,831,970
		Silver Bullion	—
	£24,306,979		£24,306,979

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities (including Dead Weight Annuity)	£11,871,821
Rest	3,827,865	Other Securities	20,063,178
Public Deposits*	6,838,842	Notes	5,289,780
Other Deposits	11,857,130	Gold and Silver Coin	617,363
Seven Days and other Bills	765,305		
	£37,842,142		£37,842,142

* Including Exchequer, Saving-Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, & Dividend Accts.

RAILWAY ARRANGEMENTS.

The Scottish Midland Junction Company will pay a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. The receipts for the half-year have been 25,720*l.*; the expenditure, 15,188*l.*; leaving an available balance of 10,532*l.*

At the annual meeting of the Newcastle and Carlisle Company, last week, the report was adopted, and a dividend declared at the rate of 5 per cent per annum.

Theatres and Music.

There has been no novelty whatever at any of the theatres this week; but we believe the general aspect of dramatic affairs is prosperous. A new drama of some importance is promised at the Adelphi; and Miss Cushman is about to join young Mr. Webster's company at Sadler's Wells.

The two rival Opera managers have at length spoken, by newspaper advertisements. Mr. Lumley merely states that Her Majesty's Theatre will reopen early in May; that engagements of great interest have been effected both in opera and ballet; and that the prospectus will shortly be issued. Notwithstanding some gossiping paragraphs in the daily papers, this, at present, is all that is known on the subject.

Mr. Gye enters more into particulars. From his advertisement it appears that he intends to open the Lyceum on the 15th of this month. He retains all the great stars, and indeed almost the whole company, of last year, but is to reduce the orchestra and chorus to a scale corresponding to the small size of the theatre; and it appears from the enumeration of operas to be produced that the same consideration has governed him in their choice. The great spectacles of the French stage—the *Huguenots*, *Prophète*, &c.—are excluded; and the pieces mentioned are really Italian operas, which will be seen and heard to greater advantage on a small stage than a large one. No new performer is announced, and the only new piece is Verdi's last opera, *La Traviata*. For our part, we look forward with some pleasure to the change: the sweet and graceful Italian singing and acting of which we have the prospect will be a welcome relief from the glare and glitter, the sound and fury, of the modern Gallo-German stage. It will be all very well if Mr. Gye can make his theatre *pay*, but this seems simply impossible.

The New Philharmonic Society have begun another campaign; transferring their field of operations from Exeter Hall to the Hanover Square Rooms. Thus the two rival bodies, occupying the same ground, are brought into more immediate collision than they have hitherto been; and their performances, taking place under more similar circumstances, will be suggestive of more direct comparison. But this must be hereafter; for the New Society has as yet only given one concert, on Wednesday last; and the first concert of the Old remains to be given on Monday week.

The New Philharmonic Society have endeavoured to distinguish themselves from the Old by greater exertions in pursuit of novelty. In particular, they have had the merit of making our public acquainted for the first time with some of the greatest orchestral works of Berlioz, performed under his own personal direction. In the same spirit they have now produced two compositions, which, though really very old, are to be regarded as new not only to us but to the world. They are both by Mozart, and belong to an early period of his life; but they remained in his portfolio till they were sold by his widow, among many other manuscripts, to a great German publishing-house, in whose hands they have lain till within these two or three years. This being their history, it may be presumed that Mozart never intended that they should be published; for, like many men of genius, he wrote laboriously under the spur of necessity, and would hardly have thrown aside any of his compositions that he thought worthy of his name. Though these pieces, accordingly, are stamped with the impress of Mozart's mind, yet we can easily believe that they would not satisfy his more matured judgment. The one is a Symphony Concertante, with two solo parts for a violin and a viola. It is exceedingly melodious and graceful, but much slighter in construction than any of his great symphonies which are known to everybody. The other is a "Litany," which we would regard as a still earlier composition than the Symphony Concertante. It is redolent of Mozart, but of Mozart in his nonage. The airs are in the Italian style of the day, very prolix, and full of antiquated divisions and formal closes. The choruses have grand effects, but not the sustained sublimity of his later ecclesiastical works. These pieces, nevertheless, are of great interest to the musician, and the New Philharmonic Society are entitled to much credit for bringing them forward. In the Symphony, the two solo parts were admirably executed by Sainton and Blagrove; in the Litany, Madame Rudersdorff did all justice to the airs; but the choruses were marred by the incompetence of the singers.

The rest of the concert consisted of things familiar to all amateurs: Beethoven's Overture to *Egmont*, and his Symphony in B flat; Mendelssohn's Concerto in G minor, played by M. Hallé; and the Overtures to the *Freischutz* and *Le Domino Noir*. In these pieces the orchestra did not gather laurels. It *looked* as strong as formerly, but was really much weaker. The principals were able performers, but the "rank and file" were anything but select. They played coarsely, and their unsteadiness often baffled all the exertions of Dr. Wylde the conductor.

The Musical Union has also begun its season. Its first concert, on Wednesday morning, filled Willis's Rooms to the doors with the most fashionable company in London. Mr. Ella, with his usual spirit, brought the famous violoncellist Franchomme from Paris expressly for that single occasion. The performances, according to custom, were of the most severely classical character: two of the finest stringed-instrument quartets of Mozart and Beethoven, and a pianoforte trio of Mendelssohn. No vocal music—not a note calculated to tickle the popular ear; and yet everything was listened to with the utmost attention and evident delight. Fashion and frivolity are not so inseparably united as many people suppose.

Mr. Hullah has entered upon an undertaking not in the line of his special vocation in which he has laboured so long and so well. He has commenced a series of "Orchestral Concerts," to be given every Saturday evening, and to consist of *instrumental* music, instead of vocal harmony, on which his attention has been hitherto bestowed. Mr. Hullah proposes to perform the symphonies and overtures of the great masters in a manner not to be surpassed, and on terms nowhere else to be met with. For the former object, he has assembled an orchestra amply sufficient in strength and quality: for the latter, he has opened St. Martin's Hall to the public at the rate of one shilling, setting apart only a very limited number of reserved places at somewhat higher prices. He has expressly followed the well-known dictum of Beethoven, that the most powerful orchestra ought not to exceed sixty performers; and he has selected that number from among the very best instrumentalists that London can produce. There is not a name on his list that is not recognized in connexion with one or other of our most distinguished bands. It thus appears that his purpose is to popularize orchestral as he has already done choral music, by placing it within the reach of those who cannot afford the expensive performances of the Philharmonic Societies, and who do not choose to mingle among great crowds, and to listen to quadrilles and waltzes, at Jullien's promenades. Mr. Hullah's announcement completely filled the hall; and the audience enjoyed with great gusto a very fine performance of several orchestral chefs-d'œuvre, especially the famous Jupiter Symphony of Mozart. Not to give the entertainment too severe an aspect, there was a pleasant infusion of light and elegant vocal pieces. The experiment has begun well, and its success ought not to be doubtful.

PARISIAN THEATRICALS.

The "peace" has been solemnized at the Variétés by a little jeu d'esprit entitled *Donnez-moi la Paix*. M. Benett, a Frankfort tailor, who is moreover an enthusiastic admirer of Mr. Cobden's views, has written directly to the Sultan and the Czar in order to promote the pacification of Europe. A wag, who lodges in the same house, fabricates the answers to his epistles; and the man of peace finds himself possessed of two odalesques, the gift of the Turkish potentate, and half-a-dozen serfs and a bear, the donations of the Muscovite Emperor. These costly testimonials of Imperial gratitude suggest uneasy notions of household expenditure to the amiable Benett; and when the representatives of the two Absolute Governments quarrel with each other and turn the peaceful lodging into a field of battle, their presence becomes an intolerable nuisance. Of course, all the intruders prove to be disguised humourists; but the announcement of the real peace, as given in *La Patrie*, is read as a conclusion to the story.

A four-act drama in verse, entitled *Michel Cervantes*, has lately been produced at the Odéon; and the cause of the literary profession is ably advocated by the author of *Don Quixote*, represented by M. Tisseraut. The piece is written by M. Theodore Muret.

Fine Arts.

ROYAL PORTRAITS BY WINTERHALTER.

Mr. Mitchell has just published three lithographic portraits of the Queen, Prince Albert, and the Princess Royal, after drawings made by Mr. Winterhalter within the past year,—being, it may be presumed, the latest authentic likenesses which have been taken. The great and now almost exclusive vogue of this sure-handed but limited and uncharacteristic artist, in the Court region, is calculated to divest of any great living interest the records supplied to the lieges, present and future, of the actual period of the reigning family. However, although the resemblance in the Queen's face might be not only more agreeable but stronger as well—her Majesty and the Prince Consort, in the engravings before us, are unmistakeable likenesses; the former wearing the order of the Garter and holding a paper in her hand, the latter in military costume. There may be no disloyalty in saying that the chief immediate interest will attach to the figure of the Princess Royal; of whose incipient womanhood this is the earliest portrait which we remember to have seen. The artist's embodiment is one which could not fail of being pleasing under any circumstances, and which, considering who the sitter is, makes the engraving sure of becoming an universal favourite.

We are requested to state that the oil-picture named "The Larder," at the Suffolk Street exhibition, of which we spoke last week on the assumption of its being by the same Mr. Chapman who painted the water-colour of Shakespere's "Pistol," is the work of a different artist of the same surname. Our misapprehension is due to an error in the catalogue.

EXHIBITION OF AUTOMATA.

Some extremely well-executed animals, of the size of life, endowed with mimic animation by means of certain mechanical contrivances concealed within real skins, made their appearance last year amid the count-

less curiosities of the Parisian Exhibition; and their movements usually attracted a considerable throng of observers. These are now transferred to the Egyptian Hall; and patronage may be worthily bestowed on the ingenious artificer, who by a skilful appliance of wheels and springs effects an illusion that even a knowledge of the means employed can scarcely dissipate. The hare, the goat, and the ewe, are especially such perfect imitations, that the union between apparent life and real lifelessness might have supplied Hoffmann with a more terrible eccentricity after the manner of Callot. Humanity is likewise represented, but with infinitely less success.

THE REVENUE.

I. The following is an Abstract of the net Produce of the Revenue of the United Kingdom, in the undermentioned periods, ended March 31, 1856, compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding year.

	QUARTERS ENDED			
	30th June 1855.	30th Sept. 1855.	31st Dec. 1855.	31st March 1856.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	5,465,406	5,713,674	5,384,461	5,225,169
Excise	4,613,568	4,946,776	4,444,726	2,631,600
Stamps	1,828,300	1,604,165	1,695,369	1,766,473
Taxes	1,316,400	111,374	1,323,114	207,738
Property Tax	2,177,889	4,538,646	1,260,942	6,837,280
Post-office	289,267	261,737	293,272	327,399
Crown Lands	63,000	66,816	85,000	67,000
Miscellaneous	325,772	188,557	345,317	298,502
Totals	16,079,662	17,431,465	14,832,201	17,361,161

	QUARTERS ENDED			
	30th June 1854.	30th Sept. 1854.	31st Dec. 1854.	31st March 1855.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	5,221,445	5,349,251	5,699,967	4,728,111
Excise	3,978,299	5,212,782	4,555,529	2,594,518
Stamps	1,773,358	1,707,809	1,829,843	1,822,239
Taxes	1,515,304	133,577	1,287,232	200,030
Property Tax	1,976,355	2,545,056	833,892	5,899,334
Post-office	384,000	343,000	277,234	329,923
Crown Lands	65,000	61,572	80,000	66,000
Miscellaneous	160,326	154,394	178,177	243,361
Totals	15,074,087	15,507,341	14,741,874	15,883,516

	Year ended 31st March 1856.	Year ended 31st March 1855.
	£	£
Customs	21,788,770	20,998,774
Excise	16,636,670	16,341,128
Stamps	6,894,307	7,132,949
Taxes	2,958,626	3,136,143
Property Tax	14,814,757	11,254,637
Post-office	1,171,695	1,334,157
Crown Lands	281,516	272,572
Miscellaneous	1,158,148	736,458
Totals	65,704,489	61,206,818

II. Increase and Decrease in the Quarter and Year ended March 31, 1856, as compared with the corresponding periods of the preceding year.

	QUARTER ENDED March 31, 1856.		YEAR ENDED March 31, 1855.	
	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	497,058	—	789,996	—
Excise	37,082	—	295,542	—
Stamps	—	55,766	—	238,642
Taxes	7,708	—	—	177,517
Property Tax	937,946	—	3,560,120	—
Post-office	—	2,524	—	162,462
Crown Lands	1,000	—	8,944	—
Miscellaneous	55,141	—	421,690	—
Totals	1,535,935	58,290	5,076,292	578,621
Net Increase	£1,477,645		£4,497,671	

III. An Account showing the Net Revenue and other Receipts of the Quarter ended March 31, 1856; the Application of the same, and the Charge of the Consolidated Fund for the said Quarter, together with the Surplus or Deficiency upon such Charge.

	£	£
Surplus balance beyond the Charge of the Consolidated Fund, for the Quarter ended December 31, 1855, viz.—		
Great Britain	—	
Ireland	£411,784	
		411,784
Net Income received in the Quarter ended March 31, 1856, as shown in Account 1		17,361,161
Amount of Exchequer Bills (Supply) and Exchequer Bonds issued in the Quarter ended March 31, 1856, in full of Grant of 7,000,000		3,477,730
Amount received in the Quarter ended March 31, 1856, in part of Loan of 5,000,000		3,501,000
Money received by Sale of Exchequer Bills issued to replace in part the Amount of Supply Bills paid off in Money out of the Ways and Means of the Year 1855-6		800,000
Money received in lieu of Exchequer Bills, in part of Funding of 3,000,000		622,000
Amount received in the Quarter ended March 31, 1856, in repayment of Advances for Public Works, &c.		285,388
Saving on the Charge for Diplomatic Salaries for the Year 1855		15,624
		26,174,707
Balance, being the Deficiency on the 31st March 1856, upon the Charge of the Consolidated Fund in Great Britain, to meet the Dividends and other Charges payable in the Quarter to June 30, 1856, and for which Exchequer Bills (Deficiency) will be issued in that Quarter		2,569,685
		28,744,392
Amount applied out of the net Income for the Quarter ended March 31, 1856, to redemption of Exchequer Bills (Deficiency) for the Quarter ended December 31, 1855		3,879,730
Exchequer Bills redeemed with Money received under the Act for Funding Exchequer Bills		463,000
Net Amount applied out of the Income to Supply Services, &c. in the Quarter ended March 31, 1856		15,832,269
Charge of the Consolidated Fund for the Quarter ended March 31, 1856, viz.—		
Interest of the Permanent Debt	£5,392,594	
Terminable Debt	1,419,314	
Interest of Exchequer Bills (Deficiency)	8,114	
The Civil List	101,233	
Other Charges on Consolidated Fund	314,271	
Advances for Public Works, &c.	326,980	
		7,762,506
Balance of Money received under the Act for Funding Exchequer Bills, reserved		139,000
Surplus Balance beyond the Charge of the Consolidated Fund, for the Quarter ended March 31, 1856, viz.—		
Great Britain	—	
Ireland	647,867	
		647,867
		£28,744,392

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE TREATY OF PEACE.

THE original purpose of the war with Russia, expressed or implied by the declaration in the London Gazette of March 28th 1854, was, to abate that domination of Russia in the East which threatened the interests of Europe. The purpose gradually branched into those more specific "objects" which became "the four points" in the memorandum submitted by the Allies to the Russian Ambassador on the 28th of December 1854, and produced before the Vienna Conference at the beginning of 1855. They were—first, the substitution of a "collective guarantee" of the five Powers for the Russian protectorate over Moldavia and Wallachia; second, the freedom of the navigation of the Danube; third, the termination of the Russian preponderance in the Black Sea; fourth, the abandonment of the Russian protectorate over the Christian subjects of the Porte. The text of the treaty which has just been concluded is not yet published; but we are assured by Lord Palmerston that it comprises the objects of the war as they have been already stated to the public and generally understood; and there is no difficulty in believing, from the course of events as well as from those assurances, that the objects which we have recited from the documents of the Vienna Conference of 1855 have been embodied in the treaty adopted by the Plenipotentiaries at the Paris Conference of 1856.

It is probable that the objects have been attained in a manner *more* effectual than they would have been if the memorandum of December 1854, or the propositions successively laid before the Conference of 1855, had been incorporated in a treaty. The Russian protectorate of Moldavia and Wallachia has in the interval been repealed de facto, and the war has, perhaps, more effectually uprooted it from the soil of the Principalities than it could have been by diplomatic stipulations. The arrangements which are understood to have been adopted for securing the freedom of the Danube are better than those sketched out in 1855; and if Sardinia has, according to report, distinctly secured a free admission for herself, we have in the fact an example of working in detail which is an additional guarantee for the effectual arrangements of the stipulations. In like manner, the concessions which the Porte has made to the Allies with reference to the government of her Christian subjects, so completely alter the relations of those subjects to the central Government of Turkey, and to the rest of Europe, as to supersede any formal resuscitation of the Russian pretension. The detailed arrangements made for determining the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea are uncertain; but if the current reports are true—if Russia has consented not to renew those fortifications of which she has been deprived already, or of which she must have been deprived in another year's campaign—the establishment of a pacific governance for that inland sea has been effectually attained. And confirmation of this view is afforded by the reports from the Black Sea itself, of preparations for the removal of Russian military stores. On the evidence accessible at present, therefore, we are justified in calculating that the objects of the war have been attained more effectually than appeared probable at the same season last year, or than was in contemplation when the declaration of war was issued.

Although the formal statement of the objects had not been altered, the prolongation of the contest had turned attention to the probable necessity of aiming at others for military purposes. The accession of Sweden to the alliance strengthened some anticipation of an advance of the Swedish frontier to its older limit; the course of events in Asia seemed to make the complete repulse of Russia in that quarter a matter of necessity; the public, not uncencouraged by persons in high places, began to talk of restoring Poland; and "the fifth point" of the latest Austrian propositions is supposed to contain something beyond the "four points." Thus, the objects of the war became enlarged, at least in appearance; and perhaps we seem to be in part justified in our half-content by not having attained much more than we demanded before the declaration of March 1854. But the feeling short of complete satisfaction is really due to other causes, connected with the distribution of military credit or "glory."

If our representatives have an indefeasible right to say that the purpose of the war has been accomplished, it is not so easy to accredit them with a favourable balance of the *advantages* derived from the contest. Some of the latest consequences of governing Turkey by a joint protectorate of the Allies instead of the individual protectorate of Russia, prove that, although the grand encroacher has been checked, "the Eastern question" has not been settled, now or prospectively. If Turkey has been brought into more direct relations with the rest of Europe, we have no evidence that the central Government has been strengthened. The internal revolution may take place, henceforward, within the cognizance of European authorities, but it does not seem to have been permanently averted. Some of the Christian tribes show discontent at the proposals for modifying their own domestic relations; the discovery of long-consolidated corruptions must retard, if they do not preclude, the reforms dictated by the allied protectors of Turkey; a Panslavonian journal has reappeared at Patras; and the fortune of arms left some advantages to Russia at the last in Asia: these are circumstances which show how little the great branches of the Oriental question have been settled,—not the progressive disorganizations of Islam, nor the advance of Russia in Asia, nor the ever-changing rise of semibarbarous Christianity

against a Mussulman government, nor the Pansclavonian conspiracy.

Russia does not retire from the contest entirely at a disadvantage: and this is perhaps one of the most promising though less expected results. We have practically refuted, indeed, the vulgar superstition—never entirely believed—that Russia was a power destined to be resistless in her preponderance. But we have found that she does possess a great resisting vigour, and that she commands military resources and engineering capacities of which she was not suspected. If she has been for a time arrested in the open advancement of her aggressions, we have yet to receive proof that she has been compelled to give up the machinery by which she has carried on her more insidious and more effectual encroachments—her moral means of bringing over foreign governments to her purpose, and of cajoling where she cannot coerce. Who can say that even now, by the crafty submission of Buol to France, and the flattering deference of the puissant Orloff to Napoleon, Russia has not obtained some signal successes of her cajolery at the Paris Conference? The greatest concession that Russia has made, it has been remarked, does not lie in giving up this point or that point, but in accepting the *general* purport of the propositions made to her through Austria. It implies, not so much that the Czar has been beaten in the East, as that upon being forced to review the position and prospects of his empire, he has laid aside one policy found to be unsuccessful, and has adopted another promising to bring him more power. We are not indeed to assume that Alexander the Second possesses the force of mind, or the personal influence, which could at once set aside and repel the traditional aspirations embodied in "the will of Peter the Great," and accepted by successive Autocrats of all the Russias. But he has resolved to seek an increase and extension of his power by endowing Russia with commerce. He will at once restore all the influence that was imperilled by Nicholas; but he will at the same time give hostages to fortune which will render it more difficult for Russia henceforward to take up arms lightly. And here is a result, not disadvantageous to Russia, in which lies the best guarantee for Europe.

If we look to the other countries engaged, we cannot see that the contest leaves settlement where it found disorder. Every "question" which could have been mooted before the declaration of war is even in a more *un*settled state than it was then. The Polish question alone perhaps presses less, because it has become yet more problematical. Germany is certainly not more settled; nor Austria; nor the dangers on the Austrian frontiers, Russian, Pansclavonian, or Italian. As to the Italian question, it is almost on authority advertised for grave discussion during the next two years, unless it be settled at the supplemental Conference which remains in Paris.

Our own share in the results of the war constitutes the most questionable portion, on the surface. We started with a rule that we should not endeavour to gain any material objects, any positive aggrandizement of territory; we did not perhaps bargain for transferring the moral results, the increased influence derived from marked successes, so completely to our allies the French. For us, the close of the war at this particular point of time happens inopportunely. When we began the race in the Crimea, we possessed an army disorganized by peace, competing with an army trained in the most recent warfare by the newest professors of the military art. We have redressed the balance, so far as the efficiency of our force is concerned, but we still leave the balance of the results to that rival. The late war has been a lesson to us, of the severe rather than the smiling kind. It does not terminate with a Waterloo, but with the Malakoff and the Redan. We closed the last war, its critical victories won mainly by ourselves, with arrangements that augmented the strength of arbitrary power; we must close the present war with different views of policy and a different estimate of our own position. We must be content to take our place among other nations upon a footing of more promiscuous equality. The bitterest part of the experience afforded by the late war is, the doubt whether the classes that fill the upper ranks of our institutions are still moved by the old hereditary ardour to seize the occasion for distinguishing themselves and elevating their country; whether they have not sympathized so much more with governments than with peoples, that they have forfeited the opportunity to place new achievements on their escutcheons and to extend the example of their own constitutional country? The war has not called forth the chivalry of our high-born classes, but apologies for its apparent decline; it has not given us a commanding position in Europe, but it has ended in a peace that promises immediate extension of trade, and future opportunities, perhaps, for the display of our more magnanimous qualities.

THE PRINCIPALITIES: WHAT TO DO FIRST?

THE peace signed at Paris on Sunday, although it stops the war, by no means rounds off the Eastern question. Indeed, the document which bears the names of the representatives of seven Powers only provides that, Russia making certain concessions, four of them will no longer hammer away at the fifth, the remaining two looking wistfully on and fearing every day that they should be ultimately dragged into the quarrel. That is the state of things put an end to by the treaty of Paris. Also, if the concessions obtained from Russia be fairly secured, European Turkey, at least, will be rendered more difficult to invade, for Russia will be shut out alike from the Danube and the Black Sea: the new Turkish frontier will completely cover the former; the resuscitation of the extinct Russian military marine in the latter is prohibited by the treaty. But something more is required to render Turkey in Europe secure; and the obtaining of that something is likely to cause a great deal of trouble.

The cessation of the war in favour of Turkey, and the cession of territory, raise the whole question of the Principalities. Nothing could be more unsatisfactory than their position before the war. For ages they had been nominally independent, with an awkward confession of inferiority—the payment of a tribute. In our own day, the introduction of a Russian protectorate complicated the question; and the treaty-right whereby Russia not only secured the control of the mouths of the Danube, but also the power and privilege of occupying the Principalities when she pleased, gave a direct blow to the suzerainty of the Porte, and kept a menace suspended over the heads of the Moldo-Wallachians, which made them more subservient to the Czar than to the Sultan. The war abolished all the treaties between Russia and the Porte, but it did not and could not abolish the relations between the Porte and the Principalities; relations which consist in the abstinence of interference on one side and the payment of a tribute on the other.

The difficulty that presents itself is twofold—what may be called the constitution of the Principalities, and what may be called the defensive system of the Turkish empire in that quarter. Perhaps the simplest way of dealing with the Principalities would be to unite and leave them internally free within certain liberal limits. The suzerainty of the Porte must be retained, but the Porte need have no other rights than those of suzerainty. Latterly the Porte has precluded itself from erecting fortresses anywhere on the left bank of the Danube; the money payments made by the Principalities might be dispensed with in consideration of a legal right to erect and garrison such fortresses as may be essential to the protection of European Turkey. What Europe is most anxious for, is the creation of a peaceable, well-regulated, agricultural state, in the lower Danubian basin, so that the great water-way may not only be maintained as a free outlet for Germany to the Black Sea, but as a free outlet for the products of the Principalities themselves. In the prosperity of such a state all would be interested, and one would think that it could scarcely be more difficult to found a neutral state on the Lower Danube than it has proved to found one on the Lower Rhine. Theoretically, the best arrangement would be a sort of United States of the East interposed between Russia and the Bosphorus; but that, if it ever be accomplished, must be a result of natural growth—the work of time, and the gravitation of the races inhabiting Moldo-Wallachia, Servia, and Bulgaria, to a confederacy.

The military portion of the question is by far the more important at this moment. Of course, if the aim of Russia was Constantinople in 1853, it is hardly likely that she has forgotten the directions in Peter the Great's alleged will, and has ceased to resolve to "progress as much as possible" in that direction. By the conditions of the treaty of Paris, additional obstacles have been thrown in the way of Muscovite conquest; the greatest of which are the complete obliteration of the marine of Russia in the Black Sea, and the removal of her frontier from the Danube. This favourable conjuncture offers an opportunity of effectually blocking up the road to Constantinople; and, whatever may be the political fate of the Principalities, prudence dictates the seizing of that opportunity at once to effect the military security of Turkey. Three defensive lines might be constructed between the Pruth and Constantinople: the first, extending from Ismail on the left bank of the Danube, across the narrowest part of Wallachia to the foot of the Carpathians, would consist of a chain of four or five fortresses; the second line would be formed by the Danube, with such defensive works on both banks as might be required; the third would be the Balkan; and a fourth, as traced by General Macintosh, might cover Constanstinople from any land attack made by an army that had either forced or turned the Balkan. But the frontier fortresses would be of the utmost importance, for they would effectually secure Turkey from a repetition of the scenes of 1853, when Prince Gortschakoff overran the Principalities and laid hands on all the supplies they furnished without its being in the power of Omar Pasha to strike a blow in return.

The settlement of the Principalities should therefore intimately depend on the settlement of the frontier defences of Turkey; and no squeamishness respecting alleged national rights and ancient privileges on the part of the Moldo-Wallachians should be allowed to prevent the establishment of such defences between the Black Sea and the Carpathians as will secure the Danube, and make it difficult for an enemy to enter Turkey from Bessarabia.

ITALY.

THE question of Italy is not put forward only because Count Cavour is reported to have said something in the Conference. Whatever may have passed in that assembly, or whatever reserves may have been kept, the subject is put forward by its own inherent force. Sardinia cannot overlook it, cannot be silent, cannot remain merely passive; and Sardinia does not stand alone. There are other Italians in the peninsula besides her subjects; and Austria also is in the peninsula. By the existence of the Piedmontese state, the question of Italy has been entirely changed since 1848-'9. It no longer stands among those "nationalities" which excited vague sympathies but which baffled definite handling. We owe a distinct debt to all the practical Liberals of Italy,

since this country has *thrice* been instrumental in inciting them onward with false hopes of assistance, and has then left them in the lurch just at the critical point. We have thrice performed that act of treachery, thrice defeated very just hopes of improvement, and entailed upon Italians political reaction. Constitutional government in Italy has now assumed a substantial form, and has been so conducted as to engage our sympathies and our common interests. The Italian question therefore has become substantial, practical, and living.

No one can for a moment imagine that any branch of the Italian question is at present in suspense—that antagonized factions and opinions are at rest, and that there is not a constant warfare to suppress the state which has so successfully established itself. The closing of the war has an immediate effect upon the position of parties in Italy; it releases one of the most formidable adversaries of Italian nationality. The antagonisms within remain in their full force: the Pope, pressed by a bankrupt exchequer and the decline of his influence in all the chief cities, and instigated by the reactionary party among his Cardinals, employs a never-ceasing activity to undermine the influence of the Piedmontese Government at home, to incite the priest party in all the Sardinian states to bring the other Italian Governments together in a combination against their own subjects and against Piedmont, and especially to lead the Austrian Government back upon the fields of Italy. The conspiracy between Guelphs and Ghibellines against modern constitutional liberty was never more active than it is at the present moment. Recent events have proved that there are grounds for fearing active aggression. During the negotiations, Austria proclaimed an amnesty for her exiled subjects; and the measure was held as an act of generosity, opening the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom to its best exiles. There were causes to arouse suspicion. "Timeo Danaos"! The amnesty, in fact, was regarded as a trap for the purpose of drawing away many distinguished men who were the ornaments of the Constitutional party in the peninsula, and who have obtained citizenship in Piedmont; and it was calculated to suspend questions between Sardinia and Austria during the negotiations.

But events have compelled Austria to show that she does not depart from her established policy in Italy. The Emperor has emulated other sovereigns, past and present, in submission to Rome. Protestant subjects, upon whose allegiance his throne in great part depends, have been justly irritated at the arrogance and falseness of the Roman priests throughout his dominions. He has been compelled to summon a mixed meeting of bishops and statesmen for the purpose of arranging the working of the Concordat; and Count Leo Thun himself, the civil negotiator of the measure on behalf of Austria, has been put to his wits' end in the endeavour to mitigate the severity with which the priests have exercised their newly-recovered power. But there is an exception to the mitigatory exertions of the Austrian Government: there is *one* place where the priests are allowed to dictate, to interfere, to suppress, and to arrest; and that place comprises the Northern provinces of Italy. In Piedmont, where the press is free as it is in this country, the priesthood do not scruple to show that they desire to get back all the power that they have heretofore exercised. The same Church which is licensed to tyrannize in the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom exists with as little division as there is in the sky above within the territories of Sardinia. There is unbroken communication between the priesthood of Rome all over the peninsula; and there is therefore an organized and consecrated conspiracy ever working to undermine the constitutional establishments of Sardinia.

Within the last few weeks, the extreme parties of Italy have come into collision within the city of Parma. It is of course difficult to get accurate information on subjects of this kind, where the popular agitators veil their proceedings as much as the Austrian officials. But we doubt whether we are far wrong in saying that the two parties have never ceased to continue their intrigues and their covert hostilities within that city. It is the open spot in the ground of Italy which enables us to see the incessant working of the elements beneath. The assassination of Bordi was not an isolated fact; it belongs, we believe, to a series that comprised the assassination of the Duke. It is well known that the death of the Duke was an item in a programme for a Republican insurrection of the whole city if not of the state. The insurrection itself was deferred; the actor to whom the part of Brutus was allotted refused to postpone his part of the business, and the Duke was killed. The Republican party has never been quieted. In 1854, a military commission was appointed to adjudge rioters who were excited to turbulence by a dearth; officers of that commission have been assassinated; Bordi was the third; a fourth was named, but he still survives. If the Republicans have never ceased to watch for the opportunity of striking blows, the Austrians have never abandoned their guard. It could not have been a single murder which induced the Duchess Regent to proclaim martial law; but, instead of intrusting the protection of the city to Italian government and Italian troops, she hands it over to Austria and her soldiery. We have here, then, the confession that the minor Governments of Italy are still practically upheld by Austria, and also that Austria is ready to occupy any ground which she may be permitted to defend in Italy as an outpost of her own power. It is not a very long march from Parma to Turin.

We need not dwell upon the unceasing hostility to Italians and to constitutional freedom which resides in Rome or Naples. Tuscany, connected by blood with Austria, has avowed her dependence upon the policy of the Empire, and has, like Austria, to acknowledge that the exiles whom it has driven forth have found a home in Piedmont. There is therefore an undying conspiracy of the Italian Governments against Sardinia. The Italian people may still repeat what has been so often said, that their Governments, like some other Governments in Europe, form a conspiracy of the Sovereigns with foreign accomplices to tyrannize over subjects who are treated with the basest cruelty. Mr. Gladstone might republish his pamphlet on Naples, *without* alterations. A London daily paper, which supports the foreign policy of our Government and sympathizes actively with Imperial France, has just published a diatribe on Naples, which might excite hopes that the Western Powers are about to undertake a crusade in Naples to vindicate honesty and humanity in the Southern part of the peninsula. This demonstration, coupled with the reports of Count Cavour's appeal to the Conference, might raise hopes almost as high as Lord Minto's speech from hotel-windows to the admiring Italians in 1848. But we have something more than shadowy sympathies to consider now. The constitutional state which has established freedom for all classes, which has given circulation of knowledge printed and spoken, which has placed the law above the priesthood, and has instituted the commencement of free trade, is the object of incessant attacks from its neighbours all round, to undermine and overthrow it. It is not by playing off intrigues against intrigues; it is not by "demonstrations" in the Bay of Naples or the Straits of Messina that the Italian question can be settled. It cannot be dashed off as an appendix to the unsettled Oriental question. To arbitrate the questions between Austria and Piedmont, to settle the mad pretensions of Naples, to arrange the withdrawal of foreign troops from Rome, where they constitute a state of acknowledged war,—to settle these things, is to go far in settling "the question of Italy," and is not too great a subject for the deliberation of a special Congress.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY REFORM BILL.

The Cambridge University Reform Bill is better than the Phœnix. That famous bird passed through the process of destruction to rise again equal to its former self; this fortunate bill is knocked on the head to start up again with redoubled vigour. Mr. Bouverie has sat upon the egg this time; and, so far as we can judge, his chicken has a good chance of coming to maturity. The state of the case is as follows. Towards the close of last session, the Government yielded to the wishes of the resident members of the University, expressed in petition to Parliament, so far as to form them into a constituency for electing the eight members of the Governing Council proposed by the bill, who should be neither Heads nor Professors; with the restriction that not more than two of these members should be taken at the same time from any one College. They retained thereby the sectional mode of election rejected by Parliament in the case of the Oxford Bill, and declined to give the Council the power of nominating the Vice-Chancellor, as well as various other powers now exercised by the Heads of Colleges collectively. The new bill does away with the sectional mode of election, and gives to the Council the power of nominating in all cases where at present the Heads collectively possess it, with the limitation that the two persons nominated for the office of Vice-Chancellor shall always be Heads of Colleges. The Council will therefore now consist of four Heads of Colleges, four Professors, and eight ordinary members of the Senate, all elected by those members of the Senate who have resided within a mile and a half from St. Mary's Church for twenty weeks at least during the year preceding the time of election. But any Head being a Professor is eligible to sit in the Council as a Professor, and any Head or Professor is eligible to sit among the eight ordinary members of the Council. In all other points of importance the bill repeats the provisions of that of last year.

Pressure has already done so much to improve this bill since the Lord Chancellor's wretched abortion of a year ago, that we have little doubt of its further success if a necessity exists for applying it. The points that remain for the consideration of the members of the Cambridge Senate are—whether it is wise to confine the Governing Council in their choice of the Vice-Chancellor to a Head of a College; and whether the disciplinal power of the University ought to be intrusted to the Council instead of to the Heads collectively. The latter transfer may be involved in the general repeal of the Elizabethan Statutes, provided by the bill; but if this is intended, it is important enough to demand specific mention, and if it is not intended, the question is whether it ought not to be. Both points are fairly open to discussion, and the resident members of the Senate should express an opinion, if they are not satisfied with the proposals of the Government.

In respect to the concessions offered to Dissenters from the Established Church, no advance is made on last year. Dissenters are to be allowed to take all degrees except theological degrees, but not to become members of the Senate, or eligible to any office hitherto confined to members of the Established Church, and for which such degree has been one of the qualifications. The only question is, whether Dissenters are strong enough to carry more than this. If they are, of course they will do so; and they will have many wellwishers at Cambridge, and among those members of the Established Church who think it the deepest injury to their church that it should be the means of excluding British citizens from civil privileges.

The names of the Commissioners for carrying out the changes required in the Statutes of Colleges, and various other details

quite unfit for Parliamentary discussion, are except in one instance different from those of last year. That one instance is unfortunately the Bishop of Chester: and still more unfortunately it happens, that of the many able men named with him, the most able are notoriously either engrossed by other business or in a poor state of health. Vice-Chancellor Page Wood has, we should think, little time to spare from his judicial labours. Dr. Vaughan has Harrow on his hands, and by every account finds it quite enough of itself to absorb all his activity. The Dean of Ely is unhappily of late years not so strong as he used to be. Lord Stanley may, if he will, keep the Bishop in check; but the Bishop is dexterous, and has the advantage of having been long resident as a Master of a College in Cambridge, whereas Lord Stanley only resided there as an under-graduate. The Bishop of Lichfield is an amiable, an able, and an upright man: we trust that he adds to these excellent qualities firmness, decision, and liberal views on the questions that will come before him. Our chief hope, however, is in Mr. Baines. Still more we rely on the fact that Cambridge has done a great deal to reform herself, so far as her statutes allowed her to do it; and therefore the Commissioners will perhaps have little to do but confirm the changes proposed by the Colleges on their own motion. Every friend to these institutions would wish that there should be no necessity for the interference of the Commissioners.

And now Parliament need take but little time in discussing this bill. Its general principles and most of its details have been affirmed in the Oxford Act of 1854. The points we have mentioned are almost the only points that admit of any discussion, unless attempts be made to go back from the positions taken two years since in the case of Oxford. A single night in Committee would suffice, if Members were resolute to understand the matter beforehand. We shall be heartily glad to see the bill safely through and in operation; for it is of no small injury to the University to be kept for years together in agitation about fundamental changes in its constitution, and in constant expectation of an interference from the central Government, which at best is a dangerous remedy.

COMING POST-OFFICE REFORMS.

If the authorities of the Post-office were able to begin the arrangement of their system from the very beginning, we might at once have all the advantages that perfect reform could bring to us, and further improvements would be superseded by realizing all improvements at once. The experience since the institution of Penny Postage, however, has forcibly reminded us that the Post-office reformer could not begin from the beginning—he could not deal with a tabula rasa. He had to arrange a Post-office, not as an abstract institution, but in the midst of circumstances that sometimes obstructed as much as they facilitated his arrangements; and it has often happened that the very improvements which appear likely to present conveniences have presented hinderances. In the appendix to the Second Annual Report of the Postmaster-General is an explanation of the relations between the Post-office and the Railway Companies, from which we learn that many of the irregularities charged against the Office are to be traced to the Companies. It was proposed in 1854, that any delay should entail a penalty upon the Railway Company or the Post-office, as either might have been the active cause of hinderance; but the only Company that has adopted the proposal is one in Scotland. The other Railways stand upon the right of unpunctuality; but unpunctuality at one point causes unpunctuality at many, and a much greater loss of time than the first retardation. The Railway Companies persevere in another mistake; while the average cost of conveying letters by coach is 2½*d.* per mile, by railway it is 10*d.*; the railways not perceiving the *indirect* profit, even to themselves, from encouraging postal communication.

The Post-office has to work, more than any other department, through a very complicated agency, where the central influence becomes weaker as it is diffused. Its own servants are very numerous; the work is of a kind that cannot in most instances command a high pay; and it is excessively difficult to bring a large number of men, who have not received a superior education and are surrounded by inferior circumstances, into habits of mechanical regularity, unless some arbitrary power compelled them. It would be impossible to subject the letter-carriers of the Post-office to military punishment; and it is only wonderful that upon the whole their humbly-paid labours are performed with so near an approach to precision. But besides the letter-carriers, there are the receiving-houses, opened in many cases by what may be called the amateur officers of the Post-office. And there is besides the most intractable, unpunctual, and unconscientious customer with which any officer can deal, the public. The appendix to the Postmaster-General's report contains several examples of complaints which end in confessions. A person at Macclesfield complains that he has posted a ten-pound note which has not reached its destination: the note is presented at the Bank, is traced back, and it is discovered that the letter had been stolen *after* the delivery. Two five-pound Bank-of-England notes ought to have been posted at Leeds: a charge is brought against the central office; and it is there found that the notes had been purloined by a clerk *before* they reached the Post-office. A gentleman at Archer's Town, in Westmeath, complains that a letter, containing halves of bank-notes and bills amounting to 400*l.*, has not come to hand: the letter is found in a drawer in the house of a person to whom it had been directed, who had entirely overlooked it. The public has been shown by the Post-office, over and over again, how to divide bank-notes in order that one half may be acknowledged before the other half is sent; but the public neglects even this easy precaution, and constitutes its own neglects charges against the Post-office. In the same appendix there is a story of a young lady who never received the letters addressed to her from home, but instead received brown paper parcels, conveyed to her by men on horseback, or other mysterious agents, telling her of her mother's illness, death, and funeral, and requiring her instant return home: complaint is made to the Post-office, and it is discovered that the whole proceedings are fabricated by a schoolgirl anxious to get home. If the establishment in St. Martin's-le-Grand is to be assumed guilty of all the irregularities that take place with regard to the posting and delivery of letters, we might have a heavy bill of indictment; but the establishment has proved that the most culpable party in these irregularities is the public.

It is amid difficulties occasioned by the proverbial unpunctuality of railway-trains, the uncertainties of receiving-houses, the incorrigible neglects of the public, that the reformers have to plan improvements for those accelerations which the public is constantly demanding. The most promising design at present contemplated is the division of the Metropolis into ten districts,—two central and eight surrounding districts, each to have its head office, with direct communication between all and each. The districts will be the East Central district and the West Central district, with the North, North-east, Eastern, and so on, boxing the compass all round. It is calculated that when the arrangement is complete there can be hourly deliveries of letters, and that all the letters received from the out stations of each district can be proportionately accelerated on their arrival in the metropolis. It strikes us that the Post-office officials may have to learn as well as the public. There is great difficulty in teaching the multitude to adapt itself to any entirely new system, particularly in topographical directions. We believe that the Post-office plan of directing letters to be subscribed for particular districts has not succeeded; the public adhering to those directions which are most popular, or are thought most imposing. It will take some time before letter-writers can learn the geography of the metropolis divided into ten districts, not with mathematically-planned frontiers; and it is a question whether the lesson might not have been more easily accomplished if the existing Parliamentary districts of Westminster, Marylebone, Tower Hamlets, &c., had been adopted. Of course the new arrangement will not be carried out before explicit directions are given to the public; but it must be remembered that a very numerous class of correspondents, imperfectly educated, will puzzle their heads long over the most distinct of maps before they can become thoroughly enlightened as to the proper letters which are to undertake the several districts. We see that a contemporary speaks of one district as to be indicated by the letters "S. S. W.," an inapplicable combination of initials; and if an editor can so err, how may not a maid-servant go wrong? These are trivialities, but it is amid the chaos of trivialities which have to be reduced to order that all Post-office reform has marched. The great proof of success is the absence of valid complaints against the Post-office for any offence, except some delays which are often caused by the public, and some directions which are perhaps too complicated for simple heads. It is most remarkable that in so vast a department there should be an almost entire absence of fraud *upon* the Post-office.

BRUTAL EXECUTIONS.

The scene at the Old Bailey on Monday morning could have none but bad effects. It was calculated entirely to shut out from sight the question of justice or of retribution; and to excite no feelings but brutalizing curiosity or sympathy for the criminal. When Bousfield was struggling with his fate as he hung suspended by the neck, and *three* times succeeded in resting his feet upon the beams, no spectator could have refrained from sympathizing with him, unless it were some man so worse than savage as to take pleasure in the spectacle of agony.

When despair grows reckless and casts aside all sense of decency in dying, the criminal or the victim, as the case may be, is able to wreak a summary vengeance on the bystanders, by casting the horror back in their faces. When the old Countess of Salisbury was condemned to death, she warned the executioner that his post should not be without its labour; and she took to her heels, dodged him about the scaffold pursued by his axe lifted in air. There is something at once peculiar, revolting, and ludicrous, in the picture of the nimble old lady pursued by the headsman, with a gaping crowd for an audience.

Sometimes the victim rises terribly superior, and the character of the scene is entirely changed; but still it is not conducive to the sense of justice. The reign of James the First was fertile in persecutions of the Jesuits: amongst the number who were sacrificed was one Green, who was condemned to die the death of a traitor; and, according to the form of sentence in those days, he was first to be hanged and then to be quartered, being previously exenterated. Even this was a mitigated sentence. The number of accomplices in Anthony Babington's conspiracy, who suffered on two successive days, were sentenced to undergo the worst part of the punishment before death; but on the second day a more merciful dispensation permitted them to be killed first; and it was this mitigated sentence that was pronounced on Green. In

that case the executioner performed his office badly; and Green revived sufficiently to sit up and look around him when the barber-surgeon began to execute the more dreadful part of the sentence. At this point, a lady—Mrs. Elizabeth Willoughby—stepped upon the scaffold and supported the head of Green on her lap while his lingering spirit underwent the last torments. She wiped his brow with her handkerchief, and declared that it burned under her hand. The mob had behaved with disgusting brutality; they had pulled at the rope after Green was taken down from the scaffold; but many who witnessed the firmness of the man under his unspeakable torments, and the devotion of the lady, must have gone away filled with feelings very different from those of sympathy or admiration for his judges and executioners. Here the horror of the scene is redeemed by something that compels sympathy or even admiration for the victim; and it will usually be found so: either the horrors are simply brutalizing, or if they are redeemed from that base influence, a sympathy is created for the sufferer.

For the thousandth time the question arises, what can be the moral use of these exhibitions? In the United States the ceremony is performed by the Sheriff more in private; but even there privileged persons are admitted to the show; and some traveller describes a scene of the kind. The condemned man sat sullenly eyeing his spectators before the ceremony; and he suddenly asked some of them what could induce them to come there to see a fellow creature hanged. It was difficult to answer the question. The motive which collects the crowd at a hanging might enlighten us as to the effect of the show. Conscious that the public has not entirely given up its faith in the gallows, a great contemporary performs suit and service to the popular feeling by reminding us, that if Bousfield was dragged to death, the spectacle was not more revolting than that which imagination calls up of the bloody corpses of his wife and children. But Bousfield did not collect a crowd to view the bloody corpses; nor is it exactly harmonizing with the dignity of justice that the Sheriff should descend into a competition with the criminal. There is no doubt that abroad they consider us to do these things barbarously. In France they hold the guillotine to be a less objectionable instrument of extreme justice than the gallows; and while we satirize the Spaniards for the brutality with which they assemble to see a bull tortured to death, they retort upon our folly which collects the lower class of the population the more to brutalize it by showing a man tortured to death. Perhaps the best we can say in support of the practice is, that we have fallen into the custom, and do not know how to get out of it. There does seem a chance, however, that we shall have to give it up from the difficulty of obtaining men to perform the duty of hangman. We must either employ notoriously abandoned characters, or the Sheriff himself must undertake the work; for the post is becoming so odious that Calcraft himself is growing nervous, and through his trepidations performs his task clumsily. But the office of justice is reduced ad absurdum when it depends for its completeness upon the nerves and adroitness of a Calcraft.

WHAT IS "VOLUNTARYISM"?

Those who oppose useful measures because they rely on "the Voluntary principle" frequently advocate some plan which constrains the people and obstructs their free volition. Do not, they say, force education on the people, but leave it to voluntary effort. Now, it is found that in a vast number of cases there is *no* effort. Besides, education is not offered for those who exercise the volition—the parents, guardians, and masters—but for children, who have no present freedom, but who have to bear the future consequences. The Voluntaries claim for parents, guardians, and masters, free will to prevent children from being educated: the advocates of public education say, We will open the schools, and you shall not prevent the children from coming, if they will learn. Surely *this* is the Voluntary principle?

The law requires owners of factories to fence off dangerous parts of the machinery, and Voluntaryism exclaims against an "interference" which presumes to supersede the voluntary care of the workpeople for their own limbs and lives. But the workpeople in a mill cannot determine whether or not the machinery shall be boxed; it is not in human nature to keep a perpetual watch always to avoid contact with dangerous machinery familiarized to the sense; and the members of the working class exercise no volition in stopping away from ill-guarded mills. It is with them only a choice between certain death by want, or the chance of death by accident. The compulsion to box off machinery diminishes the degree of *in*voluntary sufferance.

Medical men cannot obtain the confidence of their patients unless they have some testimonial of their capacity: shall they be permitted to show false or worthless testimonials, inducing patients to trust themselves involuntarily to disguised quacks, and obliging the better part of the profession to adopt inferior standards? Such a permission would sacrifice the voluntary to the involuntary.

Laws enabling men to act together extend the working of genuine voluntary principles; laws restraining frauds check the extension of involuntary submission to undesirable conditions. If we may coin a nickname for the inverse burlesque of Voluntaryism, we may say, that to prevent the passing of laws which facilitate coöperation, which protect helplessness, and which check fraud, encourages *Voluntaryism*; and those who claim for themselves the title of Voluntaries might more fitly be called *Voluntaries*.

Letter to the Editor.

THE FRENCH ALLIANCE.

Edinburgh, 29th March 1856.

Sir—There appears to be an impression at present that the best way to strengthen the French alliance and to keep up a cordial understanding betwixt the two nations is to send congratulatory and laudatory addresses to the French Emperor on the birth of his son, and expressing a desire for the perpetuation of the Bonapartist dynasty. Will you allow me, à propos to this, to narrate a conversation I had last summer in Paris with one of the most distinguished and eloquent members of the National Assembly, which was put down by the coup d'état?

I shall not mention the name of my friend, as this might subject him to be thrown into prison and shipped off to Cayenne at a moment's notice, without even being brought before a judge, as happens every day under the present Imperial régime to Frenchmen who have the misfortune to fall under the suspicion of the Government, or to be denounced by one of the numerous *mouchards* who are spread over the whole face of the country. I shall simply design him by the letter S.

Well, then, S. and I were sitting together in a café one day last summer during the period Louis Napoleon was in London. S. had been reading the *Moniteur*, which contained a florid description of the reception of the Emperor in the capital of England. He threw down the paper with impatience and disgust, and exclaimed, "You English seem to be very fond of our Emperor: with what enthusiasm you receive him!" "We do so," I replied, "to mark our esteem and respect for the French people, and to show how desirous we are to perpetuate the alliance betwixt the two countries."

"Esteem and respect for us indeed!" rejoined S—— "You surely must know that the Emperor and the French people have no interest, no feeling in common; Napoleon obtained his power entirely by means of the army, and he maintains himself in power solely by the bayonets of his troops. He is quite aware of this himself; for although 100,000 additional Frenchmen would decide at one blow the campaign in the Crimea, he dare not send them from the immense army at home, for 500,000 soldiers are absolutely necessary in France to maintain his throne. Withdraw the 200,000 men who form the garrison of Paris and the neighbourhood, and leave it to the protection of the police, as is the case with regard to London, and the Emperor would not remain on the throne a single week. It is the same in all the other towns of France—Marseilles, Lyons, Bordeaux, Nantes, &c., would rise up in insurrection were it not for the soldiers who swarm there. We were free, at least comparatively free, under the Restoration, under Louis Philippe, and during the three years that the Republic lasted; and we would be free at this moment, had not this man—whom you English are now covering with fulsome adulation—made use of the army, which was intrusted to him as President of the Republic, to reduce us to a state of the most degrading bondage. And you really imagine that the way to conciliate the French people is to laud and fête the *bourreau* who has reduced them to a state of slavery and degradation! Why, every cheer to the French Emperor is an insult to France. What right have you to suppose that we do not love liberty as much as you do? And how would you feel, supposing you were in our situation, were we to applaud the tyrant who had reduced you to bondage? We have lost our freedom solely because there existed in France an army of 500,000 soldiers commanded by generals who had been bribed and bought by Louis Napoleon. And had you in England a standing army of 500,000 men, I would not answer for your liberties any more than for ours. We French esteem the English on account of their manly qualities, and we envy them their free institutions; and I believe that the French people would prefer the English alliance to that of any other. But be assured that the conduct of the English just now towards Louis Napoleon is alienating from the English people every independent and free-minded man in France. We French do not regard the *present* alliance as one betwixt the English and the French. We look upon it as solely a union betwixt England and the French Emperor, and with respect to which the people of France have nothing to do. And depend upon this, that when the French people get back their rights, and this must take place sooner or later, the present union betwixt England and our oppressor will not be considered by us as a recommendation in favour of an alliance with you."

Such was the purport of the conversation I had at that time with my intelligent friend S——. On another occasion, I said to S——, "Why do you Liberals not accept the Government de facto, and get yourselves returned to the Legislative Assembly, and by that means compel Louis Napoleon to relax his policy in favour of liberty? You have universal suffrage and the ballot; and surely if you did not hold yourselves aloof, you might succeed in forming the majority in the Chambre." S—— answered me by saying—

"Nothing can be done for liberty as long as the Bonapartist dynasty exists. Such are the vices connected with the origin of the present Empire, that Louis Napoleon could not confer freedom upon us even if he wished it. His conduct in accomplishing the coup d'état of December will never be forgotten, and will never be forgiven by France. The freedom of the press, without which no liberty can exist, would upset him at once. This he knows himself. Louis Napoleon and his partisans know well that his tenure of power depends entirely upon the continuance of an iron despotism, supported by an immense standing army, maintained at an enormous cost to the nation, and kept up not to act against foreign enemies, but against the people of France. As long as this army is faithful and devoted to him, he may retain his power. But if at any time this army should become discontented, or the officers disaffected—and this is of frequent occurrence in our armies recruited by conscription—he will be forced to abdicate, like every sovereign who is not supported by the people. As to what you say about universal suffrage and the *ballot*, those things under a despotic government are absurdities. The farce of a Legislative Assembly is kept up as a convenient piece of machinery. But all the members are nominated by the Government, and obey its orders just as much as the other employés do. What would be the use of our becoming candidates? The ballot-boxes and the whole election machinery are in the hands of the creatures of the Government, nominated and paid by Louis Napoleon, and removeable at his pleasure. Even if we had a hundred votes to one in our favour, the returning-officers would declare that the majority was on the side of the Government candidate. This is notorious to every one in France. The votes in favour of the Empire and of Louis Napoleon on other occasions were all of this description, fictitious votes, and never deceived any one here, although they appear to have passed for genuine with you English, who do us the honour to believe that Frenchmen don't care about liberty, that they are enamoured of bondage and degradation, and that they are ever ready to record by their votes their approval of him who has reduced them to that state, and that by the exercise of the grossest crimes. No, Sir, the Liberal party can do nothing at present. We can only lie by and bide our time. France cannot remain for ever in its present state. A high-spirited people, which has already possessed liberty, cannot be kept for ever in a state of bondage. The *sourde* opposition to the present state of things is becoming more widely spread and stronger every day. In the mean time, you must have remarked that not a man of the slightest eminence has rallied to the Government of Louis Napoleon, notwithstanding the offers which have been made to them. In the Conseil d'Etat, the Senat, the Legislative Assembly, or the saloons of the Tuileries,

you will not find a single historic name from the Faubourg St. Germain, the name of a single statesman who has distinguished himself under the Restoration, the Dynasty of July, or the Republic. All the higher class of the bourgeoisie keep equally aloof. The places under the present régime are filled by men of no mark, intriguers of the Bourse and other adventurers—a class of men whom we call sauteurs—men who are ever ready to accept places under every government, who are not actuated by any principle, and who would desert Louis Napoleon at a moment's notice, as they have deserted their former masters, if they thought his power was going from him."

I am, &c. JAMES AYTOUN.

[*For* BOOKS, &c. *see the accompanying Monthly Supplement.*]

The Army.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE, APRIL 1.

WAR DEPARTMENT, April 1.—*Cavalry*—2d Regiment of Dragoon Guards—G. E. Jarvis, Gent. to be Cornet, by purchase, vice Stewart, who retires.

6th Drags.—Cornet C. Levett, from the 1st Drag. Guards, to be Cornet, without purchase, vice Baumgarten, appointed to the 4th Drags.

10th Light Drags.—Cornet J. Fife, from the 7th Drag. Guards, to be Cornet, without purchase, vice Davies, promoted.

Infantry—7th Regt. of Foot—Ensign L. H. Butler to be Lieut. without purchase, vice M'Henry, promoted; Ensign J. S. Cocks to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Hickie, promoted; Lieut. E. W. C. Lloyd, from the Royal North Lincoln Militia, to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Butler.

22d Foot—Quartermaster-Sergt. J. Connor to be Quartermaster, vice Hughes, appointed Paymaster, 68th Foot.

41st Foot—Lieut. L. M. Fraser to be Adjt. vice Hamilton, promoted.

61th Foot—Ensign G. H. J. Haldane to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Hinchliff, promoted; A. W. L. Mirehouse, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Haldane.

68th Foot—Quartermaster W. Hughes, from 22d Foot, to be Paymaster, vice Hadley, placed upon half-pay.

73d Foot—Acting Assist.-Surg. R. Lucas to be Assist.-Surg.

80th Foot—Ensign R. J. Maxwell to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Paterson, promoted in 63d Foot; R. C. C. Graham, Gent. to be Ensign, by pur. vice Maxwell.

86th Foot—Ensign J. Creagh to be Lieut. without purchase, vice Mullen, whose promotion, without purchase, on the 10th of Aug. 1855, has been cancelled; Ensign J. W. Fry to be Lieut. without purchase, vice Brown, dec.; Ensign S. W. Sewell, from the 97th Foot, to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Creagh; Lieut. C. Keane, from the Clare Militia, to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Fry.

90th Foot—Lieut. R. H. Evans to be Capt. by purchase, vice Rous, appointed to the Scots Fusilier Guards; Ensign M. Preston to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Evans; J. F. Haig, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Preston.

97th Foot—Lieut. T. E. Stuart, from the Londonderry Militia, to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Sewell, appointed to the 86th Foot.

3d West India Regiment—F. G. Dunn, Gent. to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Rawlings, appointed to the 15th Foot.

Gold Coast Corps—Ensign J. Lazenby to be Lieut. without purchase, vice Hunter, dec.; C. Hewett, Gent. to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Owen, who resigns.

British Italian Legion.—Staff—J. Leech, Gent. to be Brigade Quartermaster.

3d Regiment—Capt. D. Foresti to be Major; C. Giovanni to be Lieut.

4th Regiment—Capt. G. F. Sheppard, late Osmanli Irregular Cavalry, to be Capt.

Hospital Staff—Assist.-Surg. C. W. Foulton, M.D. from 73d Foot, to be Staff-Surg. of the Second Class; Acting Assist.-Surg. C. O. Daniell to be Assist.-Surg. to the Forces. The appointment of Surg. J. W. Mostyn, M.D. from 2d West India Regiment, on the 25th of March, has been cancelled.

Brevet—The undermentioned promotions to take place consequent upon the death of the following officers, viz.—Major-Gen. Sir J. Campbell, died the 18th of June 1855; Gen. Sir W. G. Davy, C.B. died the 25th of January 1856; Gen. Sir J. Grey, K.C.B. died the 19th of February 1856—Major-Gen. C. A. Windham, C.B. the Senior Supernumerary, to be placed upon the fixed establishment; Lieut.-Col. Lord James C. P. Murray, Scots Fusilier Guards, to be Col.; Major N. S. Gardiner, Unatt. to be Lieut.-Col.; Capt. G. W. C. Jackson, 7th Light Dragoons, to be Major.

The commission of Brevet-Lieut.-Col. J. H. Laye, 58th Foot, to be antedated to the 28th of November 1854.

M'D.Wallis, Gent. to have the local rank of Assist.-Surg. while serving with the Osmanli Irregular Cavalry.

The undermentioned officers serving with the Turkish Contingent to have local rank in Turkey while so employed—To be Majors—Capt. and Brevet-Major D. C. Greene, 43d Foot; Capts. J. Moore, 32d Foot; G. Warde, 51st Foot; P. Macdonald, late Rifle Brigade; Thomas Plaskett, late 31st Foot; C. F. Studdert, 80th Foot; W. C. F. Gosling, Madras Artillery; W. C. R. Macdonald, 2d Madras Cavalry; C. Creagh, late 9th Foot; E. Grant, 3d Bombay Native Infantry; R. B. T. Thelwall, 65th Foot. To be Captains—Lieuts. G. W. Robinson, 86th Foot; H. Semple, 60th Foot; W. H. J. Lance, 98th Foot; F. J. G. Saunders, 84th Foot; C. L. Griffin, 45th Foot; H. Speke, 46th Bengal Native Infantry; C. F. Mackenzie, 28th Bengal Native Infantry; C. F. J. Skottowe, 2d Madras Native Infantry; C. H. Riley, 50th Madras Native Infantry; J. F. Beckwith, late Rifle Brigade; H. Evans, late 14th Light Dragoons; O. F. C. Bridgeman, 2d Dragoon Guards; C. M. J. Thornton, Madras Artillery; A. J. Shuldham, 26th Madras Native Infantry; R. Pattinson, late 16th Light Drags.; L. H. Walter; A. W. Winniette, 68th Bengal Native Infantry; T. H. Fenwick, late 81st Foot; G. F. Gilden, 69th Foot; D. C. A. Delhoste, late 87th Foot; T. M. Moore, 61st Foot; J. G. Wilkinson, late 18th Foot; J. Rodgers, late 26th Foot; C. J. Stewart, 13th Bombay Native Infantry; A. D. Toogood, 2d Bengal European Regt.; Charles F. Brockman, late 64th Foot; Henry Brackenbury, 61st Foot; Capt. C. D. C. Ellis, 60th Foot; C. H. St. John O'Neill, Gent. late 3d Light Drags.; J. H. Neynoe, Gent. late 22d Foot; Lieuts. J. Elphinstone, 20th Madras Native Infantry; E. O. Pearse, half-pay Marine Artillery; C. H. Chaplin, 2d Surrey Militia; G. Mackay, late 7th Foot; D. M. Murray, 54th Foot; C. C. Dick, late 25th Foot; H. J. Fairlie, late 16th Light Drags.; W. J. Bird, late 1st Drag. Guards; C. Beales, Gent. late Austrian Cavalry; Lieuts. J. C. Flood, late 5th Foot; C. F. Mackenzie, late 61st Foot; E. Y. Peel, late 85th Foot. To be Lieuts.—Sergt. G. Symons, Royal Artillery; R. M. Glover, Gent.

The undermentioned officers serving with the Osmanli Irregular Cavalry to have local rank in Turkey while so employed—To be Majors—Capts. W. F. Ring, 87th Foot; R. Lovelace, late 19th Foot; Sir C. A. H. Rumbold, Bart. late 70th Foot; J. T. Ling, 91st Foot. To be Captains—Lieuts. W. E. Stuart, 15th Light Drags.; H. M. Walmsley, late 63d Foot; M. Monckton, late 2d Foot; R. Pittman, Bombay Artillery; William Baynes Netherwood, late 7th Madras Native Infantry; O. Barwell, 19th Madras Native Infantry; R. S. Barwell, late 84th Foot; C. C. Brooke, late 4th Drag. Guards; J. C. R. Weguelin, late 16th Light Drags; J. T. Eustace, late 3d Foot; J. S. Lynch; J. H. Thompson; A. Giffard, 16th Bombay Native Infantry; Herbert Wodehouse, 15th Madras Native Infantry; Frederick Roome 19th Bombay Native Infantry; A. Strange, formerly of a West India Regt.; H. C. Boate; W. Cumming. To be Lieuts—Ensign H. A. Williams, late 1st Foot; E. B. Barford, Gent.; G. P. Craufurd, Gent.; B. U. Boate, Gent.; J. Tracy, Gent.

For Lieut. E. B. Litchford, 48th Bengal Native Infantry, to have the local rank of Captain in Turkey, while serving with the Turkish Contingent, dated the 20th of February, which appeared in the Gazette of the 29th ult. read E. B. Litchford, Esq. late 48th Bengal Native Infantry, &c.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE, APRIL 4.

WAR DEPARTMENT, April 4.—*Cavalry*—Royal Regiment of Horse Guards—The surname of the Cornet appointed, by purchase, on the 25th ult. is Bennet and not Bennett, as previously stated.

4th Dragoon Guards—Cornet T. C. Gillespie to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Hon. M. F. Deane, who retires.

4th Light Dragoons—Capt. W. J. Birt, from the Royal Glamorgan Light Infantry Militia, to be Cornet, without purchase.

Infantry—Grenadier Regiment of Foot Guards—E. S. Bridges, Gent. to be Ensign and Lieut. by purchase, vice the Earl of Carrick, promoted.

1st Regiment of Foot—Lieut. T. Rowland to be Capt. without purchase, vice Turner, dec.; Ensign R. L. Roberts to be Lieut. without purchase, vice Rowland; Ensign J. Stansfeld, from the 6th West York Militia, to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Roberts.

7th Foot—C. H. Kempson, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Cocks, promoted; Lieut. D. Flood, from the Wexford Militia, to be Ensign, without purchase; Sergt. T. Murphy to be Quartermaster, vice Scott, appointed Paymaster.

10th Foot—Lieut. J. W. Medhurst to be Capt. without purchase, vice Brevet-Major J. C. Stock, who retires upon full-pay; Ensign C. A. Armstrong to be Lieut. without purchase, vice Medhurst.

16th Foot—Lieut. T. C. Higginson to be Paymaster, vice Kirk, who has retired by the sale of a Lieutenancy in 96th Foot.

19th Foot—Lieut. R. H. Hackett, from the King's County Regiment of Militia, to be Ensign, without purchase.

20th Foot—Second Lieut. F. Mansel, from the Hampshire Artillery Militia, to be Ensign, without purchase.

25th Foot—C. E. Hill, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Harrison, promoted.

27th Foot—Capt. R. Freer, from the 60th Foot, to be Capt. vice Phelips, who exchanges.

30th Foot—The Commissions of the undermentioned Officers to be antedated as follows—Capt. C. J. C. Sillery, to 9th Sept. 1855; Lieut. T. Elwyn, to 9th Sept. 1855; Lieut. R. O. Campbell, to 25th Sept., 1855; Lieut. C. P. FitzGibbon, to 29th Jan. 1856.

32d Foot—Assist.-Surg. G. Evans, from the 64th Foot, to be Assist.-Surg. vice Moorhead, promoted to the 29th Foot.

41st Foot—The promotions of Lieut. FitzRoy and Ensign Donelan, and the appointment as Ensign of First Lieut. Ellison, from the Kent Artillery Militia, to bear date the 25th and not the 7th March, as previously stated.

46th Foot—The appointment of Quartermaster-Sergt. J. Dwyer to be Ensign and Adjt. to bear date the 25th, and not the 7th March, as previously stated.

51st Foot—Lieut. H. R. De Anyers Willis to be Capt. by purchase, vice Drought, who retires; Ensign M. B. Lewin to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Willis; H. Chambers, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Lewin.

60th Foot—Capt. W. D. Phelips, from the 27th Foot, to be Capt. vice Freer, who exchanges.

64th Foot—Assist.-Surg. E. L. Lundy, from the 79th Foot, to be Assist.-Surg. vice Evans, appointed to the 32d Foot.

76th Foot—Capt. T. B. Mortimer, from half-pay Unatt. to be Capt. vice Brevet-Major H. D. Smart, who exchanges.

79th Foot—Lieut. J. Bell to be Capt. by purchase, vice Freme, who retires; Ensign T. R. Howkins to be Lieut. by purchase, vice Bell; J. M. T. Simpson, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Howkins.

94th Foot—The commission of Assist.-Surg. J. Watts to be antedated to 5th April 1855.

95th Foot—S. Lynne, Gent. to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Rawlins, promoted.

97th Foot—Lieut. R. G. Macdonald, from the Royal Canadian Rifle Regt. to be Lieut. vice Armstrong, who exchanges.

1st West India Regiment—Acting Assist.-Surg. J. Kelly to be Assist.-Surg.

Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment—Lieut. J. F. Armstrong, from the 97th Foot, to be Lieut. vice Macdonald, who exchanges; Sergt. J. Harkness to be Quartermaster, vice Baxter, who retires upon half-pay.

Royal Malta Fencible Regiment—Ensign J. Lazzarini to be Lieut. with local and temporary rank, vice Metrovich, dec; F. Sedley, Gent. to be Ensign, with local and temporary rank, vice Lazzarini.

Turkish Contingent—G. M. Davidson, Esq. to be Paymaster; W. G. Proctor, Esq. to be Paymaster.

British Italian Legion—The appointment of Lieut.-Col. W. L. Grant, to the British Italian Legion, to bear date 12th November 1855, instead of 14th December 1855, as previously stated. 4th Regiment—Ensign H. J. Hunter, from the 2d Regt. to be Lieut.

Hospital Staff—To be Assist.-Surgeon—Assist.-Surg. R. Speedy, from the 1st West India Regt, vice Cullen, appointed to the 4th Light Dragoons.

Trade.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE, APRIL 1.

Partnerships Dissolved.—Watson and Ripon, Oakenshaw, calico-printers—Boughton and Hayward, Billiter Street and New Bond Street, merchants—J. and W. Carpenter, Hythe, grocers—Jones and Co. Bankside, coal-merchants—A. and J. Milnes, Bradford, Manchester, drysalters—Buchler and Ammann, Savage Gardens, merchants—Taylor and Co. Wood Street, Cheapside, blanket-warehousemen—R. T. and A. R. C. Corbould, Bankside, coal-merchants—R. and C. Strachan, Watling Street, anti-corrosion-paint-makers—Ward and Co. Bradford, Yorkshire, grocers—Unthank and Ritchie, Oxford Street, drapers—Lamb and Naylor, Rawdon, Leeds, joiners—Casentini and Wilson, Hercules Buildings, Lambeth, modellers—Kearsley and Hadwen, Liverpool, cotton-brokers—Brown and Hicks, Maidenhead, coal-merchants—Towle and Williamson, Weirs Mill, Berks, paper-makers—Swallow and Son, Leeds, stay-manufacturers—Alderson and Pitts, Leeds, millwrights—Perkins and Sharpus, Bell Court, Cannon Street, and Doby Court, Queen Street, tin-plate-workers; and Perkins and Co. Clerkenwell Close, japanners; as far as regards F. W. Sharpus—Scrutton and Mason, Philpot Lane, ship-store-dealers—Clarke and Son, Westcott, Surrey, and Kingsland Bridge Wharf, timber-merchants—W. and R. Hall, Colwick, Staffordshire, farmers—Austin and Mills, Sunderland, ship-builders—J. and W. Reading, Birmingham, gold-chain-manufacturers—Chantler and Crundwell, Tunbridge, auctioneers—Fisher and Grove, Redditch, drapers—Clarabut and Goff, Faversham, linen-drapers—Neale and Son, Leicester, grocers—Brown, Brothers, Piccadilly, patent-chair-manufacturers—Symons and Harris, Grampound, Cornwall, millers—Tyler and Burrell, Ilford and Barking, corn-merchants—Pontifex and Co. Shoe Lane, coppersmith; as far as regards J. Jacklin—Brown and Co. Glasgow, commission-merchants; as far as regards J. Brown.

Bankruptcy Annulled.—JACOB ORDOYNO, Swan Place, Old Kent Road, hoop-bender.

Bankrupts.—THOMAS and CORNELIUS GEORGE STOCKER, Sloane Street, drapers, to surrender April 10, May 15: solicitors, Ashurst and Morris, Old Jewry; official assignee, Bell, Coleman Street Buildings.

BERNHARD NIKEL, Gould Square, importer of Dutch clocks, April 11, May 9: solicitor, Chidley, Gresham Street; official assignee, Johnson, Basinghall Street.

JAMES THOMAS WOOLSTON, Notting Hill, plumber, April 11, May 9: solicitor, Weymouth, Clifford's Inn; official assignee, Johnson, Basinghall Street.

SAMUEL JABEZ GIFFIN, Diddington Place, Caledonian Road, draper, April 10, May 15: solicitor, Dodd, New Broad Street; official assignee, Johnson, Basinghall Street.

THOMAS EDWARD IRONS, Reading, timber-dealer, April 15, May 14: solicitors, Nichols and Clarke, Cook's Court; Smith, Reading; official assignee, Graham, Coleman Street.

JOHN BRAKE junior, Middleton, Northamptonshire, coal-merchant, April 15, May 14: solicitors, Johnson and Co. Temple; official assignee, Graham, Coleman Street.

JOHN GALTON FROST, Wimborne Minster, inn-keeper, April 11, May 16: solicitors, Bishop and Son, New Bridge Street; Moore, Wimborne; official assignee, Whitmore, Basinghall Street.

JAMES and JOSEPH GIFFIN, Church Street, Hackney, and Diddington Place, Caledonian Road, saddlers, April 15, May 20: solicitor, Burkitt, Currier's Hall; official assignee, Edwards, Sambrook Court.

CHARLES POPE, Stoney Cross, Hants, victualler, April 15, May 13: solicitors, Terrell and Chamberlain, Basinghall Street; official assignee, Lee, Aldermanbury.

WILLIAM CLEWS, Wednesbury, baker, April 12, May 2: solicitors, Duignan and Hemmant, Walsall; official assignee, Bittleston, Birmingham.

RICHARD FOX, Moreton-in-the-Marsh, Gloucestershire, ironmonger, April 15, May 19: solicitors, Bevan and Girling, Bristol; official assignee, Acraman, Bristol.

STEPHEN MOORE, Liverpool, ship-broker, April 11, May 8: solicitor, Woodburn, Liverpool; official assignee, Bird, Liverpool.

ALICE ROGERSON, Clifton, Lancashire, victualler, April 17, May 2: solicitor, Bullock, Manchester; official assignee, Hernaman, Manchester.

JOHNSON THOMPSON, Bishopwearmouth, joiner, April 11, May 22: solicitors, Harle and Co. Southampton Buildings, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Browne, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; official assignee, Baker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Dividends.—April 24, Blacker, Ludgate Street, importer of foreign silk goods—April 23, Hammond, Scott's Yard, Bush Lane, ship-owner—April 23, Turner, Ludgate Hill, draper—April 23, Peebles, East Dereham, builder—April 21, Popplewell and Goff, Lime Street, merchants—April 23, Lockwood, Wandsworth, grocer—April 23, Cole, Birchin Lane, merchant—April 24, Maybery, Earl's Court, Old Brompton, lodging-house-keeper—April 24, Cottman, Sandgate, grocer—April 24, Larking, Ipswich, inn-keeper—April 23, Williams, Manchester, corn-dealer—April 24, Thomas, Newport, Monmouthshire, apothecary—April 24, Jones, Chepstow, wine-merchant—April 24, Renshaw, Liverpool, brewer.

Certificates to be granted unless cause be shown to the contrary on the day of meeting.—April 24, Hall, Bush Lane, merchant—April 23, Richardson, Caterham, builder—April 22, Field, Staverton Row, Walworth Road, tea-dealer—April 23, Evans, St. James's Street, tailor—April 22, Johns, Merthyr Tydvil, shop-keeper—April 30, S. and R. W. Rose, Honiton, drapers—April 30, Miniffe, Honiton, baker—

April 23, Brodie, Liverpool, alkali-broker—April 23, Kirkham, Livesey, Lancashire, spinner—April 24, Welch, Birmingham, packing-case-maker.

Declarations of Dividends.—Mitchell, Great Bourton, Oxfordshire, railway-contractor; first div. of 1*s.* 8*d.* any Wednesday; Whitmore, Basinghall Street—Riddell and Raymond, Sherbourne Lane, merchants; first div. of 11*d.* any Tuesday; Nicholson, Basinghall Street—Armstrong, Mount Street, and Carpenter Street, Grosvenor Square, fishmonger; first div. of 8*d.* any Tuesday; Nicholson, Basinghall Street—Balding, King's Arms Place, Old Kent Road, hat-manufacturer; first div. of 3*s.* any Tuesday; Nicholson, Basinghall Street—Cabburn, Cumberland Row, King's Cross, victualler; second div. of 2*d.* any Tuesday; Nicholson, Basinghall Street—But, York Street, and Middlesex Hospital, baker; first div. of 1*s.* 1*d.* any Tuesday; Nicholson, Basinghall Street—Rolfe, Great Marlborough Street, tailor; third div. of 2½*d.* any Monday; Cannan, Aldermanbury—Ricketts and James, Moorgate Street, merchants; first div. of 1½*d.* any Monday; Cannan, Aldermanbury—Clarke and Davison, Cheapside, warehousemen; first div. of 1*s.* 6*d.* first div. of 2*s.* 6*d.* on the separate estate of J. Davison, and first div. of 4*s.* on the separate estate of J. A. Clarke, Thursday next, and three following Thursdays; Graham, Coleman Street—Johnstone, St. Ive's, draper; first div. of 3*s.* 6*d.* Thursday next, and three following Thursdays; Graham, Coleman Street—Tattersall, Liverpool, corn-merchant; first div. of 3½*d.* any Monday; Bird, Liverpool—Richards, Wrexham, draper; first div. of 4*s.* 7½*d.* any Monday; Bird, Liverpool—Oldfield, Liverpool, merchant; second div. of 1*s.* 7½*d.* any Wednesday; Turner, Liverpool—Plumbe, Southport, painter; first div. of 12*s.* 2*d.* any Wednesday; Morgan, Liverpool—Edwards, Liverpool, laceman; first div. of 3*s.* 4*d.* any Wednesday; Morgan, Liverpool—Hainsworth, Liverpool, brewer; first div. of 5*d.* any Wednesday; Morgan, Liverpool—Holmes and Marshall, Sunderland, timber-merchants; fifth and final div. of 1¼*d.* in addition to 5*s.* 8½*d.* previously declared, any Saturday; Baker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—Moses and Lotinger, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and North Shields, merchants; first div. of 2*s.* on new proofs, in part of former div. of 3*s.* previously declared, any Saturday; Baker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Scotch Sequestrations.—M'Donald, Glasgow, draper, April 11—Haig, Slateford, baker, April 14—Sutherland, Thurso, cattle-dealer, April 9.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE, APRIL 4.

Partnerships Dissolved.—Naylors and Co. Valparaiso, merchants; as far as regards J. S. Jackson—Naylor and Co. Rio de Janeiro, merchants; as far as regards J. B. Foster—T. and W. T. Bassett, Oxford Street, upholsterers—Ridge and Co. Aldermanbury, warehousemen—Dixon Brothers, Leeds, dyers—Haldane and White, Wakefield, maltsters—Baker and Burtt, York, drapers—Lodge and Gatrell, Ipswich, silk-mercers—Osmond and Clark, Bath, grocers—Barnes Brothers, Newton Heath, Lancashire, leather-lace-dressers—Squire and Pain, High Street, Camden Town, pork-butchers—Bush and Barfield, James Street, Walworth, chemists—Hopkins and Evans, Chigwell, schoolmasters—Beddome and Taylor, Romsey, surgeons—E. and W. Bright, Maldon, Essex, soap-manufacturers—Smith and Sons, Marsh, Yorkshire, cloth-dressers—Guy and Powell, King's Row, Bethnal Green, surgical-instrument-makers—Edwards and Singleton, Huddersfield, woollen-manufacturers—Guttman Brothers, Sheffield, jewellers—Sharp and Hale, Berkeley Square, booksellers—Smith and Redshaw, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, engravers—Purdue and Co. High Street, Southwark, cheesemongers; as far as regards E. Purdue—M'Kinnell and Co. Liverpool, air-proof-fabric-manufacturers—Thomas and Joseph, Cardiff, coal-merchants—Hynde and Lawson, Liverpool, commission-merchants—Dixon and Co. Sutton, Lancashire, glass-bottle-manufacturers—T. and S. Lovett, Anstey, Leicestershire, manufacturers of fancy hosiery—Knowles and Co. Brimington, Derbyshire, iron-founders—Samson and Davenport, Sheffield, silver-platers—Edwards and Langdon, Bampton, Devonshire, surgeons—Anderson and Allen, Manchester, fringe-manufacturers—Pollitt and Eastwood, Blackburn, manufacturers of patent churns—Smith and Jewers, Birchin Lane, engravers—Sturdy and Pickop, Blackburn, attornies—Keymer and Enoch, Bishop's Place, Brompton, booksellers—Ramsay and Tindall, Oldbury, Worcestershire, brick-makers—Rawlinson and Shaw, Broughton in Furness, Lancashire, cement-makers—Mousley and Ebrall, victuallers—Burnett and Thompson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, engineers—Knight and Hathaway, Odiham, Hampshire, watch-makers—Hodges and Leech, Rochford, Essex, surgeons—Humble and Bennett, Leeds, galvanized-iron-merchants—Clark and Makinson, New Palace Yard, civil-engineers—Horman-Fisher and Fox, Old Broad Street, stock-brokers—Law and Gould, Manchester, attorneys—Smith and Sons, Leeds, tailors—E. and S. Watkins and W. and J. Langworthy, Brighton, Berlin-wool-workers—J. and F. Hogg, St. James's Street, Westminster, tailors—Davies and Son, Lamb's Conduit Street, silk-mercers—Darby and Dawes, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire, coal-masters—Bryon and Co. Gloucester, tailors—Haigh Brothers, Halifax, Yorkshire, merchants—J. and G. Dearden, Barnsley, iron-founders—Riley and Co. Westbromwich; as far as regards J. Riley—Matthews and Laurence, Cheltenham, auctioneers—Simnett and Prince, Stockport, cotton-waste-dealers—Gibson and Sons, Liverpool, silk-mercers; as far as regards W. T. Gibson—Rattray and Co. Nicholas Lane, general-merchants—West and Co. Sheffield, coach-makers—Poulson and Co. Roe Mills, Newtownlimavady, whisky-distillers.

Bankrupts.—John Edwards, Southampton, watch-maker, to surrender April 14, May 15: solicitors, Paterson, Bouverie Street; Mackey, Southampton; official assignee, Bell, Coleman Street Buildings.

Alfred Langford, Lewes, brewer, April 17, May 19: solicitors, Laurance and Co. Old Jewry Chambers; official assignee, Johnson, Basinghall Street.

Charles Gaiger, Winchester, draper, April 15, May 16: solicitors, Godwin, Essex Street; Edwards and Godwin, Winchester; official assignee, Stansfeld, Basinghall Street.

Thomas Kennard, Brooksby Street, Liverpool Road, baker, April 15, May 14: solicitor, Weightman, Basinghall Street; official assignee, Stansfeld, Basinghall St.

William Walton, Richmond, Surrey, grocer, April 12, May 23: solicitor, Wreford, Charles Street, St. James's; official assignee, Pennell, Guildhall Chambers.

David Artlett, South Street, Chelsea, baker, April 9, May 21: solicitors, Willoughby and Co. Clifford's Inn; official assignee, Pennell, Guildhall Chambers.

Mallard Ingram, Rugeley, ironmonger, April 19, May 10: solicitors, Crabb, Rugeley; James, Birmingham; official assignee, Whitmore, Birmingham.

Benjamin George Holton, Coventry, victualler, April 14, May 5: solicitors, Baker, Cloak Lane; Motteram and Knight, Birmingham; official assignee, Bittleston, Birmingham.

Joseph Spooner Taylor and Joseph Marsden, Derby, iron-founders, April 15, May 6: solicitors, Vallack, Derby; Helm, Derby; official assignee, Harris, Nottingham.

William Cruse, Glastonbury, auctioneer, April 15, May 20: solicitors, Bulleid, Glastonbury; Abbot and Lucas, Bristol; official assignee, Miller, Bristol.

John Griffith Goulstone, Knighton, Radnorshire, druggist, April 15, May 20: solicitors, Whitehouse Brothers, Wolverhampton; Brittan and Sons, Bristol; official assignee, Miller, Bristol.

George Augustus Voigt, Cheltenham, dealer in pianofortes, April 15, May 19: solicitor, Parkwood, Cheltenham; official assignee, Acraman, Bristol.

Joseph Seville, Salford, cotton-cloth-manufacturer, April 16, May 7: solicitors, Sale and Co. Manchester; official assignee, Pott, Manchester.

William Crathorne, Bishopwearmouth, grocer, April 15, May 21: solicitor, Barker, Sunderland; official assignee, Baker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Dividends.—April 25, Pegler, Hampton, grocer—April 25, Jackson, Lombard Street, ship-owner—April 25, Bromley, Gray's Inn Square, scrivener—April 25, West, Fleet Street, bookseller—April 25, Williams and Holland, Duncan Street, Leman Street, and Scougall and Cherry, Australia, grocers—April 25, White, Chelsea, brewer—April 29, Morgan, Preston, cotton-spinner—April 28, Gladstone, Manchester, broker—April 28, Miners, Plymouth, grocer—April 29, Amer, Bradford, Yorkshire, grocer.

Certificates to be granted unless cause be shown to the contrary on the day of meeting.—April 25, Johnson, Kensington Gravel Pits, victualler—April 25, Marsom, South Place, Finsbury, horse-dealer—April 25, Bowman, Sloane Street, tailor—April 25, Williams and Holland, Duncan Street, Whitechapel, grocers—April 25, Lawrence, Carshalton, apothecary—April 25, Rogerson, Redcross Sq. Cripplegate, mourning-hatband-manufacturer—April 25, Boxall, Guildford, carpenter—April 30, Baylis, Tottenham, crape-dresser—April 30, Watkins, Uxbridge, builder—April 29, Pinniger, Lydney, Gloucestershire, draper—April 29, Goulstone, Bedminster, auctioneer—April 28, Dyer, Devonport, builder—April 29, Amer, Bradford, Yorkshire, grocer—May 5, J. and W. Wood, Millbridge, Yorkshire, machine-makers—May 6, Jackson, Kildwick, Yorkshire, machine-maker—April 29, Gregory, Halifax, grocer—April 30, Stephenson, Hogsthorpe, Lincolnshire, joiner—April 26, Deakin, Sheffield, joiner—April 26, Youle, Sheffield, wine-merchant—April 24, Barnes, Oldbury—April 28, Humphris, Fenny Compton, Warwickshire, victualler—April 28, White, Handsworth, Staffordshire, chemist—April 28, Bramich, Harborne, Staffordshire, corn-dealer.

Declarations of Dividends.—Okell, Union Court, Old Broad Street, merchant; first div. of 10*d.* on the separate estate, April 10, and two subsequent Thursdays; Stansfeld, Basinghall Street—Hertslet, Union Court, Old Broad Street, merchant; first div. of 1*s.* 6*d.* April 10, and two subsequent Thursdays; Stansfeld, Basinghall Street—Bridges, Wandsworth Road, brewer; first div. of 8*d.* April 10, and two subsequent Thursdays; Stansfeld, Basinghall Street—Whesson, Loughborough, bleacher; first div. of 8*s.* April 7, and two subsequent Mondays; Harris, Nottingham—Hopkinson, Nottingham, beerhouse-keeper; first div. of 7*s.* April 7, and two subsequent Mondays; Harris, Nottingham—Taylor, Nottingham, hosier; first div. of 3*s.* April 7, and two subsequent Mondays; Harris, Nottingham—Scott, Nottingham, grocer; first div. of 1*s.* 4*d.* April 7, and two subsequent Mondays; Harris, Nottingham.

Scotch Sequestration.—Kirkmann and Co. Glasgow, India-rubber-warehousemen, April 15.

PRICES CURRENT.

BRITISH FUNDS. (Closing Prices.)

	Saturd.	*Monday.*	*Tuesday.*	*Wednes.*	*Thurs.*	*Friday.*
3 per Cent Consols	92¼	93	93	93½	93½	93½
Ditto for Account	92½	93	93½	93½	93½	93½
3 per Cents Reduced	shut	—	—	—	—	—
New 3 per Cents	shut	—	—	—	—	—
Long Annuities	shut	—	—	—	—	—
Annuities 1885	shut	—	—	—	—	—
Bank Stock, 8 per Cent	shut	—	—	—	—	—
India Stock, 10½ per Cent	shut	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills, 2½*d.* per diem	4 pm.	2	1	1	—	2
Exchequer Bonds 1859	—	—	98½	98½	98½	98½
India Bonds, 3½ per Cent	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(Last Official Quotation during the Week ending Friday Evening.)

Austrian	5 p. Ct. —	French	4½ p. Ct. 94*f.* 50*c.*
Belgian	4½ — 96	Mexican	3 — 22¾
Ditto	2½ —	Peruvian	4½ — 79
Brazilian	5 — 93½ ex d.	Portuguese	3 — 53
Buenos Ayres	6 — 60	Russian	5 — 105
Chilian	6 — 102 ex d.	Sardinian	5 — 96
Danish	5 — —	Spanish	3 — 46
Ditto	3 — 84½ ex d.	Ditto New Deferred	3 — 24¾
Dutch (Ex. 12 Guilders)	2½ — 64	Ditto Passive	2½ — 7¾
Ditto	4 — 94 ex d.	Turkish	6 — 102½
French	3 — —	Venezuela	4½ — 29¼

SHARES.

(Last Official Quotation during the Week ending Friday Evening.)

RAILWAYS—		BANKS—	
Bristol and Exeter	91	Australasian	98½
Caledonian	61¼ ex d.	British North American	—
Chester and Holyhead	16½	City	65
Eastern Counties	10½	Colonial	—
Edinburgh and Glasgow	62	Commercial of London	30½
Glasgow and South-Western	—	Engl. Scotsh. & Australian Chtd.	16¾
Great Northern	94½	London	65
Great South. and West. Ireland	105½	London and County	32
Great Western	64¾	LondonChartd. Bnk. of Australia	17
Hull and Selby	104½	London Joint Stock	30½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	88	London and Westminster	—
Lancaster and Carlisle	72	National Bank	—
London, Brighton & South Coast	104	National Provincial	—
London and Blackwall	7½	New South Wales	40
London and North-Western	101½	Oriental	43½
London and South-Western	93½	Provincial of Ireland	52
Manchester, Sheffield, & Lincoln	28½	Royal British	—
Midland	74½	South Australia	41
Midland Great Western (Ireland)	—	Union of Australia	70½
North British	34½	Union of London	27¼
North-Eastern—Berwick	79	DOCKS—	
North-Eastern—York	57½	East and West India	120
Oxford, Wor. & Wolverhampton	28½	London	99½
Scottish Central	104½	St. Katherine	82
Scottish Midland	74	Victoria	18¾
South-Eastern and Dover	72½	MISCELLANEOUS—	
Eastern of France	40½	Australian Agricultural	35
East India Guaranteed	22½	British American Land	—
Great Indian Peninsular	21½	Canada	142
Great Western of Canada	25¾	Crystal Palace	3
Paris and Lyons	51¼	Electric Telegraph	88
MINES—		General Screw Steam	16½
Agua Fria	—	General Steam	27
Brazilian Imperial	2¾	Peel River Land and Mineral	2¾
Ditto St. John del Rey	25½	Peninsular and Oriental Steam	66½
Cobre Copper	—	Royal Mail Steam	81
Rhymney Iron	—	South Australian	38

BULLION.	Per oz.	METALS.	Per ton.
Foreign Gold in Bars, Standard.	£3 17 9	Copper, Brit. Cakes	£126 0 0 .. 0 0 0
Mexican Dollars	0 0 0	Iron, Welsh Bars	9 5 0 .. 0 0 0
Silver in Bars, Standard	0 0 0	Lead, British Pig	27 5 0 .. 0 0 0
		Steel, Swedish Keg	0 0 0 .. 0 0 0

GRAIN, Mark Lane, April 4.

	s. *s.*		*s.* *s.*		*s.* *s.*		*s.* *s.*
Wheat, R. O.	0 to 0	Fine	74 to 0	Fine	73 to 76	Indian Corn.	36 to 40
Fine	0 — 0	Foreign, R.	68 — 76	Peas, Hog	36 — 38	Oats, Feed.	20 — 21
Red, New.	60 — 65	White F.	86 — 90	Maple	39 — 41	Fine	22 — 23
Fine	67 — 0	Rye	50 — 52	White	45 — 47	Poland	24 — 25
White Old	0 — 0	Barley	33 — 35	Bine	46 — 48	Fine	25 — 26
Fine	0 — 0	Malting	39 — 40	Beans, Ticks	35 — 38	Potato	29 — 30
New	64 — 73	Malt, Ord.	68 — 72	Harrow	47 — 50	Fine	30 — 32

AVERAGE PRICES OF CORN.				WEEKLY AVERAGE.			
Per Qr. (Imperial) of England and Wales.				For the Week ending March 29.			
Wheat	68*s.* 0*d.*	Rye	43*s.* 4*d.*	Wheat	69*s.* 10*d.*	Rye	46*s.* 5*d.*
Barley	36 5	Beans	41 1	Barley	38 1	Beans	41 3
Oats	23 7	Peas	39 10	Oats	24 0	Peas	40 1

FLOUR.		PROVISIONS.	
Town-made per sack	62*s.* to 68*s.*	Butter—Best Fresh, 16*s.* 0*d.* per doz.	
Seconds	58 — 61	Carlow, *ol.* 0*s.* to 0*l.* 0*s.* per cwt.	
Essex and Suffolk, on board ship	53 — 54	Bacon, Irish per cwt.	65*s.* — 68*s.*
Norfolk and Stockton	47 — 48	Cheese, Cheshire	60 — 62
American per barrel	36 — 37	Derby	66 — 72
Canadian	36 — 38	Hanis, York	74 — 84
Bread, 7½*d.* to 9½*d.* the 4lb. loaf.		Eggs, French, per 120, 4*s.* 9*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.*	

BUTCHERS' MEAT.

	Newgate and Leadenhall.*				Cattle-Market.*				Head of Cattle at the Cattle-Market.	
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*		*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*		Monday.	Friday.
Beef	2 6 to 3	4 to 3 10	....		2 8 to 4	2 to 4	6		Beasts. 4,211	1,102
Mutton	3 4 — 4	0 — 4 8	....		4 0 — 4	10 — 5	2		Sheep .21,800	5,750
Veal	4 0 — 4	8 — 5 4	....		5 0 — 5	4 — 5	8		Calves. 67	186
Pork	4 0 — 5	8 — 5 0	....		4 6 — 4	10 — 5	0		Pigs 260	109
Lamb	6 0 — 6	8 — 7 0	....		6 0 — 6	6 — 7	0			

* To sink the offal, per 8 lb.

HOPS.		WOOL.	
Kent Pockets	56*s.* to 90*s.*	Down Tegs per lb.	15½*d.* to 16½*d.*
Choice ditto	90 — 120	Wethers	13½ — 14½
Sussex ditto	50 — 84	Leicester Fleeces	13 — 15
Farnham ditto	0 — 0	Combing	11 — 14

HAY AND STRAW. (Per Load of 36 Trusses.)

	Cumberland.	Smithfield.	Whitechapel.
Hay, Good	118*s.* to 126*s.*	112*s.* to 115*s.*	110*s.* to 120*s.*
Inferior	90 — 112	80 — 90	70 — 80
New	90 — 100	0 — 0	0 — 0
Clover	120 — 130	130 — 135	120 — 130
Wheat Straw	30 — 34	24 — 28	27 — 29

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Pekoe, flowery	1 9 — 4 0	Cotton, N. Orleans. per lb.	0 4½ — 0 8
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West India Molasses	17*s.* 6*d.* to 19*s.* 0*d.*	Linseed Oil	33 6 — 34 0
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Kent and Essex Regents ton	70*s.* to 0*s.*	Palm Oil	37 0 — 38 0
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York Regents	65 — 85	Coals, Hetton	17 9 — 0 0
Scotch ,,	60 — 65	Tees	0 0 — 0 0

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The Prospectus will shortly be issued.

The Subscribers and Friends of Her Majesty's Theatre who feel an interest in the success of this great establishment, are respectfully invited to forward early intimation of their intention to subscribe.

The Season will consist of Thirty Nights, and the Prices will be as follows—

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The Box Office will be opened on MONDAY, the 7th APRIL.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, LYCEUM THEATRE.—

Mr. GYE begs most respectfully to announce that he will, during the present season, give the Opera at the Lyceum Theatre.

The Subscription will be for Forty Nights, commencing on TUESDAY, APRIL 15.

Full particulars will be duly announced.

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Under the Management of Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.

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Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.
Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge.

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London, 1st April 1856.

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CONTRACT FOR THE CARRIAGE OF TIMBER FROM DEAN FOREST AND THE HIGH MEADOWS TO PEMBROKE.

Department of the Storekeeper-General of the Navy, Somerset Place, 28th March 1856.

The Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, do hereby give notice, that on TUESDAY the 15th APRIL next, at Two o'Clock, they will be ready to treat with such persons as may be willing to contract for conveying about

1293 Loads of Oak Timber

from DEAN FOREST and the HIGH MEADOWS in the County of Gloucester, to her Majesty's Dockyard at Pembroke. A form of the tender may be seen at the said office. No tender will be received after two o'clock on the day of treaty, nor will any be noticed unless the party attends, or an agent for him duly authorized in writing.

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Veitch's Hotel, Edinburgh,
March 15th, 1856.

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William Pringle, Capt. Ceylon Rifles.

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BOOKS.

DOUBLEDAY'S POLITICAL LIFE OF PEEL.*

There is an opinion now entertained by many, that every history should be pervaded by what is called an "idea,"—that is, some principle from which all motives should seem to spring, and which all persons and actions should seem to illustrate. If such a unity exists in nature, no doubt, it should appear in art; but as social circumstances and the motives of men are of a mixed kind, so are the conditions which build up a national history; and perhaps this "idea" is more useful to the writer, who is thus able to create a unity of interest without much trouble, than instructive to the studious reader, who is led to get a narrow if not a false view of things.

Mr. Doubleday has got fast hold of an "idea" in his *Political Life of Sir Robert Peel*. According to him, not only the career and character of Peel, but the whole history of England since the peace of 1815 turns upon the depreciation of the currency during the war by the over-issues of the Bank of England and the country bankers, *and* the return to cash payments in 1819 on the old standard, instead of adjusting all outstanding debts to meet the depreciation. As this is not the occasion to raise a currency discussion, it may suffice to remark in passing, that depreciation varied greatly in different years, and that those who conceive the depreciation to be measured by the price of gold as bought with Bank paper would not agree with Mr. Doubleday's notions that it is to be tested by such an uncertain thing as general prices; that much of the debts both public and private was not contracted in a depreciated currency at all; that the large reductions of taxation and of the Five and Four per Cents, following the war, must soon have removed any unfair pressure so far as regards public debt or salaries; that public opinion, and indeed the law, compelled the Bank to prepare for resuming cash payments after the peace, which the Directors did so effectually that the difference between a bank-note and a golden sovereign in 1819 was not above three or four per cent; and lastly, that Peel was merely the organ of the public and the Legislature in passing the act, upon which general opinion was determined. This last fact, indeed, Mr. Doubleday admits; and he does not give Peel credit for much real knowledge of currency, but considers him to a great extent an instrument in the hands of the Economists,—who did not, by the by, understand the question so well as Mr. Doubleday. For, according to him, it was in reality the economical pressure and derangement consequent upon the return to cash payments without lowering the standard that hung upon England during the whole life of Sir Robert Peel, and if surmounted now, it is only by means of the gold-discoveries. The anticipation by Mr. Western of a fall in prices upon the resumption of cash payments, induced the passing of the Corn-laws as a sop to the agriculturists he led; and it was the distress consequent upon the preparations for this return that really gave rise to the political violence, whose most conspicuous event was the Manchester massacre. When the French Bourbons and the Holy Alliance insulted this country by the invasion of Spain in 1823, the Ministry felt the event keenly; the Opposition and the country were for bold measures; but the French knew and the British Government knew that our hands were tied in the matter of money. To pass over purely financial questions and small affairs, it was the Currency Bill that really compelled Catholic Emancipation; for there were not the sinews of war to put down the Irish Catholics. The same cause compelled the Duke of Wellington, not only to permit the invasion of Turkey by Russia in 1828-'29, but, according to Mr. Urquhart's *Portfolio*, to submit to the insolence of Lieven and Matuscewich. The instant acknowledgment of Louis Philippe's accession was a proper thing; but it was also a necessity. The various encroachments of Russia in the Black Sea by its blockade of the Circassian coast, the seizure of the Vixen, and similar matters, as well as the extinction of Cracow by the Despotic Powers at a later day, had to be submitted to. Nay, Parliamentary Reform itself originated in "Peel's Bill." The economical pressure was felt by those who did not understand its cause, which they were induced to ascribe to a Boroughmongering Parliament. The Duke of Wellington's retrenchments when Premier, rendered necessary by this pressure upon the people, made his supporters lukewarm; and so, with the schism consequent on Catholic Emancipation, we had the Reform Bill.

When the complaints and official admissions of "distress" from 1815 to 1841 are brought together, it certainly shows what a long period of financial and commercial difficulty the country underwent. Some may ascribe less influence to the return to cash payments, than to the enormous amount of capital sunk during five-and-twenty years, of which five or six hundred millions remained in the form of a perpetual debt—to the great derangement which such wars and expenditure caused in every channel of industry—to the fettered state of commerce—and to the violent political struggles that took place up to the passing of the Reform Bill, or indeed till Peel's first Tariff-reform.

The peculiar "idea" on which Mr. Doubleday bases his biography renders the work rather a history of the events with which Peel was connected than even a "political life"; for Canning, and perhaps O'Connell, so long as they live, occupy nearly as prominent a place, and many persons are as conspicuous in particular debates as the hero himself. Nor does the biographer make the most of the idea on which he founds his work. In the outset, Peel is a blind instrument, like the public and Parliament, in the hands of the Economists. When his eyes get partially opened, he is compelled to go on; for Mr. Doubleday admits that to return was difficult if not impossible; nor does he make it very clear how adjustment *could* have been brought about before 1819.

Considered as a life, or even as a political history, the work is greatly overlaid, especially by quotations from debates; but it possesses a good deal of interest. The reader is enabled to retrace the leading events of the best part of fifty years, with many of which he may have been contemporary, and according to his position perhaps been engaged as an actor; at all events, they are still so near and so important that they are continual topics of discussion. Various characters are exhibited more or less fully, whose mere names appeal to memory or curiosity. The author has a good deal of Cobbett-like power; he is plain, shrewd, homely, and when not biased by his views on depreciation and adjustment, generally sound in his opinions and judgments. His estimate of Peel as a practical statesman and a patriot is very high. He doubts whether the Minister had any originality, or a very comprehensive mind, or the faculty of mastering the principles of large and complicated questions,—meaning thereby the currency and political economy in general. The political inconsistency with which Peel is charged was in reality less than it appears to be; for it was his nature to be cautious and foreseeing, and he had a sort of instinct of impending change, which induced him, perhaps unconsciously, never to rest on immutable principles: the seeming inconsistency arose from the power with which he opposed measures till the time came when they could be opposed no longer. In a speech against the Catholic claims, delivered so early as 1813, Mr. Doubleday thinks he traces a notion that the time might come when the claims would have to be conceded.

"The speech of the Irish Secretary himself, putting aside its great talent both logical and sarcastic, is curious in the extreme, as being the earliest exhibition of the rare and peculiar character of his mind. In the apprehension of men, Mr. Peel was at this period a high Tory and Orangeman after Lord Eldon's own heart. Perhaps in his own apprehension he was so. That he then, and long after that, deemed it, in the abstract, advisable to deprive the Catholics, especially the Irish Catholics, of power for as long a period as possible, cannot be doubted. But it is impossible to contemplate narrowly the address delivered by him on this occasion without suspecting that, even at this early period, he had obtained intuitive glimpses of the remote possibility of a time when the privileges now asked in vain could be no longer withheld. An analysis of the speech of 1813 clearly shows that the objections to Mr. Grattan's motion, then assigned, are all, without exception, in their own nature conditional, temporary, and dependent on circumstances in themselves changeable and liable to every conceivable kind of modification. He nowhere takes the broad ground taken by some of the more uncompromising of its opponents, that the religion of Papists is in its own nature a thing not to be treated with by those who defy its power; and that the pretended tolerance of religionists who still hold that no religion is tolerable in the sight of God except their own, is no more to be trusted now than in the days of John Huss. This broad ground Mr. Peel, without denying it, ignores."

At the close of the life, the biographer delivers a well-weighed estimate of Peel's character, in the usual way; but we think him happier in the critical remarks which he inserts as the occasion arises. This is a good judgment on Peel's eloquence, in the form of a comment on the speech in which he proposed Emancipation.

"It seems admitted on all sides that the impression produced by this speech upon the House and the country was very decisive. It occupied four hours in the delivery, was listened to with an eager attention that never flagged for a moment, and was concluded amidst cheers so loud and redoubled, that their echoes were distinctly heard in Westminster Hall. Without embodying, or attempting to embody much of that quality properly called 'eloquence,' it yet contains more than one fine illustration. When Mr. Peel, dwelling upon the insanity of the idea of any re-enactment of penal laws on account of religious notions, and upon the consequent impossibility of long retaining the remains that were left, said—'We cannot replace the Roman Catholics in the position in which we found them when the system of relaxation and indulgence began. We have given them the opportunities of acquiring education, wealth, and power. We have removed with our hands the seal from the vessel in which a mighty spirit was enclosed; but it will not, like the genius in the fable, return within its narrow confines to gratify our curiosity, and to enable us to cast it back into the obscurity from which we evoked it'—he unquestionably gave utterance to one of the most beautiful and complete as well as one of the most original illustrations ever employed. This, however, was a solitary and accidental

* *The Political Life of the Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel, Bart.: an Analytical Biography. By Thomas Doubleday, Author of "The True Law of Population," "Financial History of England," &c. In two volumes.* Published by Smith and Elder.

flash, and not one of a series of corruscations, such as those which Burke used to exhibit.

"As an address adapted to a great purpose, Mr. Peel's speech on this occasion nevertheless abounds in qualities more valuable, because more practically and permanently efficient, than any eloquence can be. Logical in its conduct, clear in its statements, and comprehensive in its details, it persuades and convinces the reason and not the passions, and effects its purpose without the questionable aid of adventitious excitement or meretricious ornament. As a matter of display, it has no rivalship with the more splendid effusions of Burke, Sheridan, or Canning; but as a matter of business, as a practical means adapted to a practical purpose, it is itself almost unrivalled. From abstraction and generalities it is totally free. Mr. Peel's peculiar position as a statesman, as well as the bent of his opinions and temperament, precluded him from flights of fancy on the beauty of toleration, or from that affectation of refined philosophy which makes light of theological differences, and would treat the aspirations of sacerdotal ambition as if they were mere casuistical polemics—questions for the schools, and unworthy the attention of either the statesman or the legislator. Hence every sentence uttered by the speaker is immediately applicable to the question before him, and tends to promote the object which he has in view. Ornament is given up for the sake of concentration of reasoning; and if the fancy is left untouched, the understanding is more surely captivated. It is certain that this masterly piece of special-pleading—for such the right honourable Secretary's address undoubtedly is—must always rank as one of his greatest oratorical efforts. As a display of logical art, it is very fine; and when the torrent of obloquy and ribaldry with which the speaker was constantly assailed is remembered, the entire calmness, self-possession, and courtesy which characterize it, are surprising."

Here is another tribute to Peel, but less for his intellectual character than his moral conduct during the contest on the Reform Bill.

"It is impossible to contemplate the events of the Reform crisis minutely and dispassionately without arriving at the conclusion, that to the good sense, prudence, moderation, and foresight of Sir Robert Peel, the country owed more than it ever was disposed to acknowledge. Of all the opponents of the bill, he alone preserved his equanimity, courtesy, and caution, to the very last. Had he, swayed for once by his passions or political feelings, or too much entangled by friendly and official ties, consented to join for ever so short a period in the councils of the extreme party opposed to the bill, the consequences must inevitably have been disastrous. It was a fortunate thing for all that his sagacity had taught him exactly where resistance ought to end and forbearance to begin; and it is for those who accuse him of want of constancy, or want of energy, to show how opposition could have been carried further without almost certain ruin to that which it was the end of resistance to guard and to preserve."

Though Peel's merit, as Mr. Doubleday says, was not formally acknowledged, it was widely felt. In fact it was this feeling which carried him into office, spite of the hatred against his party, and gave him power to repeal the Corn-laws.

In comparing the fifty years between the early troubles of the French Revolution and the accession of Peel to power as Premier in 1841, with the period which has since elapsed, the difference is strikingly congratulatory in every point of view. Various circumstances have contributed to this: the spread of education; the material improvements in the arts applied to the uses or enjoyments of life; a better feeling among the various classes of society, in effecting which, many minds have been engaged, in letters as well as in the more ephemeral matters of lecture and speech. A sounder and more general dissemination of economical science has also compelled Ministers to adopt a better-regulated course of conduct in public finance,—if, indeed, their own convictions, owing to that better information, have not operated, and saved us during the late war from such commercial convulsions as in 1793 struck down a hundred country-bankers at a blow, and, it is said, shook three hundred. Except in some factious instances, the country has also been spared those violent party struggles that for the better part of half a century convulsed Parliament and the people at large during Peel's childhood, youth, and early manhood. The causes of all this, as we have said, are various; but so far as the credit is due to any individual statesman, there seems to us no doubt that very much is to be attributed to the prudence, patriotism, and mollifying influence of Robert Peel.

OLIPHANT'S TRANSCAUCASIAN CAMPAIGN.*

In point of essential knowledge, this volume adds little to what was known already respecting the brief and abortive campaign of Omar Pasha in the Transcaucasian provinces. The landing at Souchoum Kale, the rapid reconnoissance of Omar Pasha in the woods, down even to the incident of the escaped slave, and the subsequent passage of the Ingour in the face of the Russian forces, are told much as they were told by the *Times* correspondent, often, it strikes us, in nearly the same words. The subsequent advance on the road to Kutais—the "object" of the campaign—is narrated in greater detail, varied by frequent personal excursions of the author to observe and forage. The long delays on this march—upwards of a fortnight altogether on the road, at Sinakia, and an advance beyond it—are unexplained by Mr. Oliphant, and seem to puzzle him; unless, as he appears to think, the want of provisions and transport may be the cause. However, at Sinakia the army remained nearly a fortnight, with Kutais before them, and, it seems, almost in their grasp. When they finally advanced towards their object, the fine weather suddenly changed; rain came down in torrents, rendering the country impracticable from the swollen state of the streams; and the order was given to retreat. It is probable that the fall of Kars, the news of which arrived the evening before the order was promulgated, was the real cause of the retrograde movement. An advance, hazardous at any time, was useless when the object to be attained by it was lost. The retreat, so long as Mr. Oliphant remained with the army, was conducted without pressure from the enemy, beyond some partisan attacks upon the rear; but the discomforts from rain and mud were very great. As long as the fine weather lasted, war was pleasant enough,—risk now and then in action, a little hazard frequently in reconnoitering or foraging; but these were only pleasurable excitement. The hardships and privations do not seem to have been much beyond roughing it on a fowl and a glass of grog, when something better was not to be had; to counterbalance which, there was a beautiful country, the open air, and a free life "under the greenwood tree." But wet weather seems as fatal to the pleasures of a campaign as to a picnic, especially when it rains as in Imeritia and Mingrelia.

"At last the long-expected rain did come, and the first thing it did was to carry away poor Skender's bridge; the next, to sweep down the bridge which had been constructed across the Ziewie, and to cut off all communication between one half of the camp and the other. That placid river was now a seething torrent; it rose about fourteen feet in one night, and the waterfall consequently disappeared. After that it continued to rise, until I thought the old ruin on the island would give way at last; but it stopped, and gradually subsided. Not so the rain—that was incessant; and to our disgust we discovered, that in the centre of our tent, which was pitched upon the side of a hill, there was a spring; so we were fairly flooded out, and had to move to another piece of sloppy ground higher up.

* * * * *

"The incessant rains had by this time reduced our camp to a deplorable state. The level plain upon which it was pitched was absolutely under water, and no amount of trenching was sufficient to prevent the floors of the tents from being flooded. Our next neighbour, Omer Bey, Colonel Ballard's aide-de-camp, called me to witness a forcible illustration of our semi-drowned condition. He had made prize of a duck in the course of a foraging expedition, which he had tethered inside his tent. It had got away from its string, and was now actually swimming by the bedside of its owner, gobbling up bits of floating biscuit. The condition of the unfortunate soldiers under these circumstances may easily be conceived. Crowded into their small tents, they lay literally packed in mud. My own bed was upon the ground, or rather in the water, and for the last two nights I had been suffering from fever and ague. To add to our miseries, we were running short of provisions. Our horses, which had been exposed to the rain without the slightest shelter, began to look careworn and miserable; nor was the appearance of the men more cheering. The Rifles had been incessantly at work. When not marching, they were employed in reconnoissances; and I do not believe that a more enduring body of men exist anywhere than these gallant fellows proved themselves to be. No doubt, a great deal was due to the care which their commanding-officer took to keep their commissariat well supplied. Had they fared as bad as many of the other regiments, they certainly could never have gone through their work. Some of their less fortunate comrades had already been out of provisions altogether, and came to buy from the Rifles biscuits at ten paras a piece.

* * * * *

"The four days which I passed at Choloni were the most miserable I ever experienced in my life, excepting seven which I afterwards spent in Redoute Kaleh. Thanks to the kindness of Mr. Longworth, I was as well provided for as was possible under the circumstances; but nothing could make such an existence tolerable. There was no inducement to go outside the tent, for you then found yourself in a pouring rain, standing up to your knees in water. It was equally wretched inside, to sit upon a rickety stool in wet clothes, with one's feet in a puddle, shivering and gazing at vacancy—for our stock of books was exhausted, and we had not even a fire to comfort us, or to change the current of one's thoughts from the contemplation of our own miseries to that of burning embers. Under these circumstances, I generally remained in bed the greater part of the day; and, by tucking a waterproof sheet tightly round my damp blankets, kept in the steam, and under this sort of hydropathic treatment attained artificial warmth.

"Fortunately, I was too ill to eat anything, as, with the exception of a little rice and biscuit, there was nothing to eat.

"At last, upon the morning of the 16th of December, Mr. Longworth and I determined to leave the camp, and to try and effect our escape altogether by Redoute Kaleh. Bidding adieu to the few of our countrymen still left with the army, we turned our faces to the storm, and commenced a painful and laborious journey. The first object that met our view was not encouraging: it was that of a man who, just picked out of a ditch, where he had almost perished from cold and starvation, was being laid upon a horse to be carried to camp; but, alas! it was too late. His glassy eyes were fixed in their hollow sockets, and except from a slight convulsive twitching of the fingers, it would have been impossible to know that life was not extinct. It was quite evident that his restoration was beyond all human skill."

As we anticipated, the campaign of Omar Pasha occupies less space than Mr. Oliphant's own adventures. These are not of a striking kind; consisting of steam-trips to and fro along the coast from Anapa to Trebizond, and occasional excursions by land, including one with the Duke of Newcastle on a visit to a native grandee. They contain a few small adventures, with more descriptions of scenery than of manners, but do not greatly differ from those of similar accounts by travellers in Asia Minor. The conclusions to be drawn from Mr. Oliphant's pages are, that our allies the Turks did all they could to misrepresent the Europeans and render them unpopular among the Circassian and other tribes; while in many places, if not everywhere, the Turks were more dreaded than the Russians. This last was not much to be wondered at, considering that the Albanian irregulars and some of the Transcaucasian supernumeraries used to kidnap children, besides committing little mistakes touching meum and tuum.

Of the Turkish people Mr. Oliphant speaks well; and, like other observers, he highly estimates their capacity as soldiers when they are well led and well commanded. The ruling classes he paints in the same colours as Dr. Sandwith and the Kars blue-book. Almost all the officers in the Turkish army that are worth anything are foreigners. Mr. Oliphant first ascertained their great numbers at Ingour, where men in the excitement of action speak the language with which they are most familiar. Of the Government, as far as its proceedings came before him, one story will suffice.

"The arrangements of the Commander-in-chief were a good deal disconcerted by the deplorable condition in which he found the army of

* *The Transcaucasian Campaign of the Turkish Army under Omer Pasha: a Personal Narrative. By Laurence Oliphant, Author of "The Russian Shores of the Black Sea," &c.* Published by Blackwood and Sons.

Mustapha Pasha, which had been quartered here [Batoum.] These troops, which had numbered twelve thousand strong, now only mustered three hundred effective bayonets. Mustapha Pasha had been despatched by Omer to Constantinople to answer for his misdeeds. As soon as these had been clearly and indisputably proved against him, he was sent back by his Government to his old post, and placed at the head of an even larger force than that which he had originally commanded, for the purpose of co-operating with Omer Pasha upon the left bank of the Rhion; which he did by marching ten miles into Gouriel and back again, having been two months engaged in effecting the important operation."

Mr. Oliphant introduces his narrative by a discussion on the vexed question of the fall of Kars, grounded on his own observation and the official correspondence. He comes to the conclusion, that the disastrous result was remotely owing to the refusal of the Allied Generals to allow Omar Pasha to remove the "Turkish" army from the Crimea in July. The more immediate cause he is inclined to attribute to Marshal Pélissier's final refusal, when the Emperor of the French left the decision to him, on the application of Lord Clarendon for the Imperial sanction of the plan.

"Whatever may have been the neglect of the Turkish Government in the first instance, with regard to the commissariat of the garrison—how distressing soever the apathy and corruption of the Ottoman officials may then have been—there can be no doubt that, in spite of all these evil and disastrous influences, had the French Government entertained the proposition of Omer Pasha when it was first pressed upon them by Lord Clarendon, instead of leaving it to the Generals in the Crimea, Kars would never have been taken. There is, indeed, a very fair probability that, even at the eleventh hour, when Sebastopol had fallen, and General Simpson stated that he had no further need for the presence of the Turkish army, if General Pélissier had then authorized its departure, instead of three weeks later, that unfortunate garrison would have been saved. But whether this was so or not, it is certain that, in that case, the Turkish army would have been at this moment in possession of the pass of Suramm; from whence the fertile valley of the Kur, and the cities of Gori and Tiflis, lying at its feet, would offer an inviting field of operations for a spring campaign; while those four populous provinces Imeritia, Mingrelia, Gouriel, and Abkhasia, wrested from the dominion of Russia, would have furnished Lord Clarendon with the power of demanding from that empire more than an equivalent for her recent success."

SOUTHEY'S UNPUBLISHED LETTERS.*

If generally wanting perhaps in force and elevation, the style of Southey was excellent for its English, excellent in itself. His letters hitherto published are as attractive as his more elaborate prose works. There is about them a variety of topic, a soundness of judgment, a transparency of mind, and a something which is not exactly warmth or heartiness of character but still a something which attracts the reader to the writer. He had also a fertility of thought, and a copiousness of diction, that not only flowed but seemed as if it could flow for ever.

Yet there is such a thing as "ne quid nimis"; and in the six volumes of Southey's *Life and Correspondence* there was as much of his letter-writing as the world at large might care to have, especially as the events of his life, for the greater portion of it, were not more important than migrations from "the blue bed to the brown." Southey's Letters, as they appeared in the volumes edited by his son, had the further advantage of being printed in connexion with the circumstances under which they were written; and though this may not affect their mere literary merit, it has a great effect on the reader, being almost the difference between knowledge and ignorance. The correspondence selected by Mr. Cuthbert Southey to accompany the Life might also have been chosen from several letters on one topic, with reference to its intrinsic merit.

The present collection of Letters is, for the reasons above indicated, of a somewhat unsatisfactory nature. There are other causes conducing to want of interest. The reader of the Life frequently finds an inferior repetition of the topics with which he is already familiar; nor is repetition always avoided in these volumes, but letters sometimes follow each other treating of the same thing. Those who are not acquainted with the circumstances of Southey's career and the character of his friends will hardly understand what they are reading. The topics of many of the letters are of so small or personal a kind, that they do not warrant publication. Many are not equal to Southey's better epistles; the ideas and language do not gush, and the jocularity is for the most part very flat. Southey scarcely had wit, or humour; his notions of a joke were hardly even verbal—he deemed it to consist in some formal arrangement of words. The doggrel on the waters coming down at Lodore is one sample. In the following extract the jest seems to rest on the size of the letters: there are some cases where it appears to reside in the position of the words, which are placed all about the paper.

"Come to Keswick. *Come!* COME!! COME!!! COME!!!! Half the calling would bring Dapper up-stairs, though this be forbidden ground; and shall a dog be thus obedient, and you still disobey?

"*Come!* Here is an artistic chair just arrived; where is the artist who is to sit in it?

"COME!! here is a whole bed; make haste lest there should be only half-a-one.

COME!!! I want to have my child christened; and would you let her continue a heathen?

"COME!!!! and see Skiddaw; and walk over the bridge of my own making; and be introduced to my dog Dapper, my most particular and intimate friend.

"COME!

"R. S."

Under the circumstances and to the person addressed, this might be agreeable enough; but time and type make sad havoc with private facetiæ.

The very faults of the letters as compositions for the public have one feature of interest for those who would wish to study Southey's character. They seem to reflect his most inward opinions at the time, and to display his weaknesses. Whole pages are occupied with accounts of the structure or story of his works executed or planned. This, however, might be merely information to intimate friends who were interested in his tasks; but there is also a good deal of self-laudation, both positive and comparative. This is Southey on Jeffrey.

"When we reached the great city, Jeffrey was invited by a friend of Elmsley's to meet me at supper. As his review of 'Madoc' was then printed though not published, he thought proper to send it me first, that I might meet him or not, as I felt disposed. This was gentlemanly conduct. Having been reviewed now above threescore times, it is not very likely that I should feel much affected by praise or censure. I met him in good-humour; which, if I had not been disposed so to do, I could not have helped, on seeing an *homunculus* of five foot one, with a face which upon a larger scale would be handsome, but can now only be called pretty, enunciating his words as if he had studied elocution under John Thelwall, of whom indeed he is an Elzevir edition in better binding. After supper we got upon the general question of taste. You would have been amused to have seen how he flourished about, endeavouring to imply an apology without making one, and talking *at* what he did not talk of,—and how I, on my part, without mentioning his review, quoted its phrases occasionally, took up his principles of criticism without once referring to their application, and, in the best-natured way in the world, made him fully sensible that he was—but five foot one! Upon my soul, I cannot feel offended with a thing so insignificant. He has wit and readiness, but in taste and learning so mere a child, and so utterly feeble in intellect, that I was actually astonished. Indeed, the whole corps of Edinburgh Reviewers appear miserably puny to me, who have been accustomed to live with strong men."

His language in his more confidential letters is sometimes very unmeasured. Of Pitt and the Anti-Jacobins he had strong opinions, perhaps caused by the attacks of the *Anti-Jacobin* upon himself. On the death of Pitt in the spring, he writes—"The best thing he ever did was to die out of the way." In the autumn his anger had not subsided, for he "goes on" in this strain—

"Fox's death (I fear he *is* dead) will throw everything into the hands of the Grenvilles. I am grieved at his death,—sorry that he did not die before that wretched Pitt, that he might have been spared the disgrace of pronouncing a panegyric upon such a coxcombly, insolent, empty-headed, long-winded braggadocio; sorry that he ever came into power except upon his own terms; and still more sorry that he has not lived long enough to prove that his intentions were as good and upright as, in my soul, I believe them to have been. This party may go to the Devil, if they will; any change that shall rid us of Lord Howick and Lord Henry Petty must be for the better."

There is truth in these axioms, though the temper is none of the best; at all events in the last, which refers to the convention of Cintra and the early management of the Peninsular war.

"It seems as if there were some law of nature by which Governments were always to be behindhand with the people in wisdom, and never to adopt sound principles of conduct till long after all thinking men had considered them as *axiomatic*."

"I have no wish to draw up memorials for statesmen. The way to instruct them is through the people: truth gets at them in that way in about fifty years."

"God help us, Rickman! If anything can ruin Spain, and England too, it will be such Generals and such Ministers as we are destined to be cursed with. Even now the game is in our own hands, if we knew how to play it. But these wretches have no principles of action, no moral courage; their boldness is only face deep—bronze over plaster-of-paris heads; and their talents just equal to the dirty job-work which has long been the main business of what is called government in England."

We cannot say that allowance is to be made for vehemence of language in the following singular passage touching different church religions, for no serious man would indulge in what is called "strong writing" on religious subjects. The meaning of Southey seems to be, that all churches, either by ceremonies or dogmas, overlay the fundamental truths of Christianity; and that this drapery changes with opinions. He himself—not only here but elsewhere—speaks of believing in the fundamental truths, but not, it seems, in the superadded "fables." The allusion to America is curious, though it does not predict Mormonism.

"The reign of fabulous Christianity must be drawing to its end. In France it is over, unless Bonaparte should take it in his head to endow the church better, for which I do not think he wants inclination so much as money. In Germany the thing is done,—the clergy are philosophizing Christians, or Christianizing philosophers. In my countries, Spain and Portugal, the old house stands; but there is the dry rot in its timbers, the foundations are undermined, and the next earthquake will bring it down. Here I do not like the prospects: sooner or later a hungry Government will snap at the tithes; the clergy will then become state pensioners or parish pensioners; in the latter case more odious to the farmers than they are now, in the former the first pensioners to be amerced of their stipends. Meantime, the damned system of Calvinism spreads like a pestilence among the lower classes. I have not the slightest doubt that the Calvinists will be the majority in less than half a century; we see how catching the distemper is, and do not see any means of stopping it. There is a good opening for a new religion, but the founder must start up in some of the darker parts of the world. It is America's turn to send out apostles. A new one there must be, when the old one is worn out. I am a believer in the truth of Christianity; but truth will never do for the multitude: there is an appetite for faith in us, which, if it be not duly indulged, it turns to green sickness, and feeds upon chalk and cinders. The truth is, man was not made for the world alone; and speculations concerning the next will be found, at last, the most interesting to all of us."

The letters begin in 1790 and close in 1815; the interest increasing as the time advances. The two volumes to come may be better than the present couple, from the same causes that improve their latter part—the nearer approach to our own times, and the wider range of the writer.

* *Selections from the Letters of Robert Southey, &c. &c. Edited by his Son-in-law, John Wood Warter, B.D., Christ Church, Oxford; Vicar of West Tarring, Sussex. In four volumes. Volumes I. II.* Published by Longmans.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORT.*

THE annual Reports which bear the signature of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, are distinguished in themselves for considerable interest in their subjects and treatment, and by much variety from each other. Of course there is a certain limitation beyond which the author cannot pass. He must deal with life, death, and marriage, in the gross, not in the individual—in the statistical, not in the social or storied point of view. Much, however, that bears upon the fortunes or well-being of mankind has been elicited, though in a matter-of-fact way: how prices operate upon marriages and deaths, how epidemic disease varies with the social condition and habitat of people, and similar topics. Nor have the inquiries and deductions of Dr. Farr been limited to questions of a large or abstract kind, which if to be directly dealt with, can only be dealt with by public authority. His investigations into the value, that is the average duration of life—which demonstrate the too high premiums that life-insurance offices have been in the habit of charging on select lives—is one of the most available examples of statistical science, directed to a practical end, which the present day can furnish.

The Sixteenth Report—dealing with 1853, the year *before* the war—points out, as usual, the most noticeable features in the life statistics of the year. In spite of wheat rising from 44*s.* 6*d.* a quarter in the spring to 69*s.* 10*d.* in the last three months, marriages flourished. The usual proportion of persons marrying is sixteen to a thousand; in 1853 it was nearly eighteen (17·88.) Of the marriages, 84 per cent were solemnized in the Established Church, and only 16 per cent in other places. In the marriages for the year, 114,537 husbands and 92,316 wives wrote their names. The husbands who made "marks" were 49,983, the wives 72,204. The relative percentage of those who could not, or at least who did not write their names, was 30 per cent among the men and 43 among the women. London displayed by far the largest proportion of "schollards"—87 per cent among men and 77 among women signed the registry. "The men and women of Wales (and Monmouthshire) write their names in the lowest proportions."

"The *ten* counties in which the greatest proportion of men wrote their names are—Durham 72·1, Gloucester 72·2, Lincoln 72·8, Devon 73·6, Sussex 73·8, York (East Riding) 77·5, Northumberland 79·2, York (North Riding) 79·4, Cumberland 82·9, Westmoreland 85·4.

"The system of instruction and the habits of these people must be very different from those of the people in the ten following English counties, where instruction is at the lowest ebb: Cambridgeshire 60·6, Shropshire 58.5, Buckinghamshire 58·4, Norfolk 58·1, Essex 57·5, Suffolk 56·5, Bedfordshire 55·7, Staffordshire 53·8, Huntingdonshire 51·9, Hertfordshire 49.6.

"Thus, in parts of England, the educational system of the country has been so narrowly based, and is so imperfect, that 5 in *ten* of the men who marry, cannot write their names.

* * * * * *

"Two questions are raised on these signatures: is the man or the woman who signs with a mark unable to write? are the men or the women who write their names, able to write anything else? Some men and women who can write imperfectly, do undoubtedly sign with marks. Upon the other hand, some persons can write their names, who cannot write a letter or keep an account in writing. The former class is perhaps the most numerous. Some of the 30 men, some of the 44 women, who sign with marks *can* write their names. Some of the 70 men and the 56 women who write their names, write little else; and are evidently unpractised writers, as their signatures are often almost illegible; not the flourishes of penmanship in which some men conceal the letters of their name, nor the undecipherable scrawl in which others write, but the uncouth, ill-formed letters of men and women who have never advanced at school beyond the first rudiments."

The subject of surnames, which may be said to give the feature to the Report, is one that has been occasionally handled by antiquaries, especially by Mr. Lower, but not with such command over national materials as the indexes of the Office give to Dr. Farr. Whatever be the paucity of invention in regard to London streets, where so many Cambridge, Cumberland, Wellington, and Waterloo Places, figure without any conceivable appropriateness, there is no lack of variety in English surnames.

"The most striking circumstance presented by the indexes is the extraordinary number and variety of the surnames of the *English* people. Derived from almost every imaginable object, from the names of places, from trades and employments, from personal peculiarities, from the Christian name of the father, from objects in the animal and vegetable kingdoms, from things animate and inanimate, their varied character is as remarkable as their singularity is often striking. Some of the terms which swell the list are so odd and even ridiculous that it is difficult to assign any satisfactory reason for their assumption in the first instance as family names, unless indeed, as has been conjectured, they were nicknames or sobriquets, which neither the first bearers nor their posterity could avoid.

"In Wales, however, the surnames, if *surnames* they can be called, do not present the same variety, most of them having been formed in a simple manner from the Christian or forename of the father in the genitive case, *son* being understood. Thus Evan's son became 'Evans,' John's son, 'Jones,' &c. Others were derived from the father's name coalesced with a form of the word *ap* or *hab* (son of), by which Hugh ap Howell became 'Powell,' Evan ap Hugh became 'Pugh'; and in like manner were formed nearly all the Welsh surnames beginning with the letters B and P. Hereditary surnames were not in use even amongst the gentry of Wales until the time of Henry VIII., nor were they generally established until a much later period; indeed, at the present day they can scarcely be said to be adopted amongst the lower classes in the wilder districts, where, as the marriage register shows, the Christian name of the father still frequently becomes the patronymic of the son in the manner just described."

An appendix contains a list of some fifteen hundred peculiar names. The aggregate numbers of fifty of the most common surnames have been drawn from certain of the indexes so as to give a fair notion of their national proportions. It is satisfactory to observe that the far-famed Smith heads the list. The descendants of those useful sons of Vulcan stand at 33,557. Somewhat lower in number, but yet "where one step higher would set him highest," comes the equally familiar Jones, whose tribe amounts to 33,341. Brown, only 14,346, stands below Williams 21,936, Taylor 16,775, and Davies 14,983. Robinson, poor fellow! is nowhere—a paltry 9045 is all he can muster. Thomas beats him hollow; so does Evans; Roberts is well ahead; and even the sons of John (Johnson) leave the sons of Robin more than four hundred behind.

Except in special and rare cases, surnames were not used by the Anglo-Saxons; they came in with the Conquest. Of the fifty names in the list, twenty-seven are classed as derived from Christian or forenames; thirteen from occupations; seven from locality—so that Mr. Hall is a feudal gentleman with a nom de terre; two from personal peculiarities—

Brown	14,346
White	7,808.

One house is named "from other circumstances": King 5661; whose family claims must have arisen before the Royal Marriage Act. The derivation of names from the Christian or forename is not always obvious: that from occupation is clearer.

"After the Smiths come the Taylors, who are about half as numerous as the Smiths; next the Wrights, amounting to about half the number of the Taylors; then the Walkers, Turners, Clarks, Coopers, Wards, Bakers, and Clarkes. The Clarks and the Clarkes, if taken collectively, would occupy the third place in the list of names derived from employments; a fact which points significantly to the importance attached to the clerkly office, and to the possession of a moderate amount of learning, in rude and unlettered times, when a king received his characteristic epithet (Beau-clere) from his scholarship. This class of surnames is peculiarly instructive as illustrating the pursuits and customs of our forefathers; many of them furnish evidence of a state of society impressed with the characteristics of feudal times; and not a few are derived from terms connected with the amusements of the chace and other field-sports to which our ancestors were so ardently attached. Widely different would be a national nomenclature derived from the leading occupations of the present day. The thousands employed in connexion with the great textile manufactures would take precedence even of the Smiths; while the Taylors would give place to the Shoemakers, (now scarcely recognizable under the not common surname of Suter, with its variations Soutter, Sowter, &c.,) as well as to the Colliers, the Carpenters, the Farmers, and others. The Hawkers, Falkoners, Bowyers, Fletchers, Arrowsmiths, Palmers, Pilgrims, Friars or Freres, and a host of other family names derived from various callings which have become obsolete in this country, would be wanting."

We will close with a view of the positive and proportional numbers of the great and rival houses of Smith and Jones.

"The surname of Smith is preëminently the most common in England, as that of Jones is in Wales; and so great is the multitude of the Welsh Joneses, that the latter name not only enters into competition for priority in point of numbers with the Smiths, but in several years shows a majority over its rival. With a view to determine the relative frequency of these two widely-spread surnames, I have ascertained the numbers of each entered in the indexes during the years 1838-'54. The result is, that the births, deaths, and marriages of the Smiths registered in this period, were 286,037, and those of the Joneses 282,900, the excess in favour of the former being 3137 in the 17 years. Smith is, therefore, unquestionably the most common surname amongst us, although the Joneses are little less numerous, and in six of the years actually contributed to the registers larger numbers than the Smiths. Together, the bearers of these two common names amounted to 568,937, or 1 in 36 of the whole number registered during the period referred to.

"Assuming that the persons of the surnames of Smith and Jones are born, marry, and die in the same proportions as persons of *all surnames*, it will follow that in England and Wales there are not less than *half-a-million* of persons bearing one or other of those two surnames. The Smiths amount to rather more than a quarter of a million, and the Joneses to little less; together forming no inconsiderable portion of the English population. These numbers represent, on the assumption that the average number of persons in a family is the same as in the whole population at the census, viz. 4·8 persons, about 53,000 families of Smiths, and 51,000 families of Joneses; and to give an illustration of their numerical power, it may be stated that these two great tribes are probably sufficiently numerous to people the four towns of Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, and Hull, without any addition of persons of other surnames."

* *Sixteenth Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England.* Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

PERIODICALS.*

THE three numbers of the *Journal of Classical and Sacred Philology*, published at Cambridge, which lie before us, testify not only to its continued existence, but its unimpaired vitality during the past twelvemonth. Appearing so seldom, of small bulk, and comparatively high price, it forms no bad type of the English learning which, Dr. Donaldson tells us, bears an honourable comparison with that of Germany, but which, after all, seems not to take kindly root among us, demanding the care and cost of an exotic, and affecting for good or evil a very limited class. How is it that, notwithstanding the enormous sacrifice of time, effort, and money, made in this country to classical learning, not a single journal devoted to this wide range of subjects has been able to support itself? The answer is obviously, that there is no public for discussions on classical learning and scholarship; for it cannot be pretended, in the face of convincing evidence to the contrary, that there are no men capable of maintaining such discussions with ability. Germany supports many such journals, and, we make bold to say, journals that cannot possibly display more knowledge and ability than the journal before us has hitherto displayed. It is found impossible to sup-

* *The Journal of Classical and Sacred Philology.* Numbers V., VI., and VII. "Printed at the Cambridge University Press."
The Westminster Review. Published by Chapman.
The British Quarterly Review. Published by Jackson and Walford.
The National Review. Published by Theobald.
The New Quarterly Review. Published by Bosworth and Harrison.
Blackwood's Magazine. Published by Blackwood and Sons.
Fraser's Magazine. Published by Parker and Son.
The Dublin University Magazine. Published by Hurst and Blackett.
The United Service Magazine. Published by Hurst and Blackett.

port even this journal as a commercial speculation in the usual way. We believe that no contributor has been paid for any article; that the services of the editors are gratuitous; and that it has been published at the risk of a small number of gentlemen interested in classical learning. Under these circumstances, it resembles more the journal of the proceedings of a learned society than an ordinary magazine or review; and we cannot help thinking this a disadvantage in every respect, as tending to give it even a more special and technical character than is necessary, and thereby to prevent many persons from buying it who would compound for its criticism and minute learning, if, without departing from its allotted limits, it admitted a larger infusion of what we may call the literary and philosophical element involved in the word "philology." We are quite aware that to do this effectually, the number ought to be enlarged, or published much oftener, or both; and that money is necessary for this purpose, while even then the chance of pecuniary success would be small, unless indeed a foreign circulation could be made to supply the absence of an English public. However that might be, at present the work appeals exclusively to persons who are professionally classical scholars—critics and grammarians—and presupposes a very familiar acquaintance with ancient literature and with modern comments.

But with this qualification of being too special and technical—a limit probably due more to necessity than to the inclination of the conductors—the papers show great knowledge and power. Mr. Cope's series of papers on the Greek Sophists forms indeed an exception in some measure to our previous remarks, and though learned, as it must be to be worth anything, is interesting and intelligible to all students of Greek philosophy. This series when completed will be a valuable contribution to the standard literature on the subject, and a necessary counterpoise to Mr. Grote's strong statement of the other side of the particular question discussed. Another series of papers carries on a still unfinished controversy between Mr. Ellis and Mr. Law on Hannibal's passage of the Alps; in which Mr. Ellis of course defends his own treatise on the subject, and argues for Mont Cenis, while Mr. Law criticizes the treatise, and stands up for Little St. Bernard. Mr. John Grote discusses Roman proper names with an acuteness and learning which make us wish for frequent essays from his pen. Any one that is curious as to why St. Mark was called "stump-fingered" may also have his curiosity gratified; and, generally speaking, the department of the journal devoted to what may be called Notes and Queries is well filled, though it bears too large a proportion to the essays and longer critical papers. Of these latter, Mr. Lightfoot's criticism on the editions of St. Paul's Epistles by Stanley and Jowett would be sufficient to establish the high scholarship of the journal. These gentlemen are handled with a severity that should warn amateurs for some time to come off the domain of grammatical criticism and exegesis, while their many eminent qualities are cordially admitted. The reviewer, however, is prevented from entering upon doctrinal questions by the original limitation of the journal; a limitation of which one may understand the motive, but which materially interferes with the adequate treatment of theological books. In conclusion, we can but wish success to the *Journal of Classical and Sacred Philology*; and we cannot but think that a larger development and a freer scope would be one means towards success. Within its present limits it does credit to English learning, but has little interest except for professional scholars.

Reviews and Magazines for April.

The *Westminster Review* contains an article on "The English Law of Divorce," well worth reading, were it only for the contrast it draws between the law of Scotland and that of England on this important subject. After showing that while the latter throws every difficulty that ingenuity can devise in the way of proving facts and investigating truth, the Scotch law proceeds to the inquiry in the mode which experience and common sense have shown to be most efficient in other analogous cases, the writer says—

"We should be fully satisfied with a short act of Parliament which should call into existence, South of the Tweed, a tribunal and a mode of procedure in divorce cases similar to that which exists at the present moment on the North.

"And what are the evils to be apprehended from such a change? Is the marriage-vow held less sacred in Edinburgh than in London? Are wives less faithful or husbands more apt to be 'a little profligate' in Glasgow than in Dublin? in Edinburgh than in London? We apprehend not; and did we apprehend and express a contrary belief, we should feel some uneasiness as to our personal safety the next time we walk down Princes Street."

"Scandinavia, Past and Present," is a clever sketch of the history of the three Northern states, written mainly with a view to warn England against the danger that is looming in the Gulf of Finland. Russia, we are told, is making gigantic preparations in that quarter, which are not likely to be given up because peace is proclaimed. All that she wants is a better system of internal communication, in order that she may be able to bring her troops across her vast territory in a few days.

"Let Russia, then, complete her railways: let her be able to bring down in a few days her countless hordes from Tartary, Siberia, and the borders of China: let her once possess Denmark, command Hamburg, Lubeck, and Bremen, the Eyder, the Weser, and the Elbe, backed and supported by sympathizing Prussia and the lesser German states, and Europe will be prostrated at her feet."

This may seem "a chimerical idea" to many persons, but the writer contends that "everything in the history of Russia for the last hundred years warrants us in believing that it may become a terrible reality." Let us hope that the Anglo-French alliance and vigilance will continue powerful and active enough to prevent such a consummation.

The opening article in the *British Quarterly*, on "The Art of History," Mr. T. B. Macaulay being taken as the great artist of the day, is more laudatory than we expected to find in the organ of the Independents. Upon the whole, however, it is discriminate in its praise, although here and there the writer seems to have been carried away by admiration. The editor has added a postscript to the article, drawing attention to the fact, that throughout the whole of his History of England, in which religious questions form so prominent a feature, Mr. Macaulay does not seem to have concerned himself in any way to inquire "whether this religion was in any sense a reality, or a something as factitious as the political schemings of the cabals of the hour." The article on "The Industrial Classes of Europe" is not without interest, especially in that portion of it relating to M. le Play's work on the subject, and his careful researches into "La Vie Domestique et la Condition Morale des Populations Ouvrières." Unfortunately, the writer views the question more in a speculative than a practical light, and lays more stress on what governments can do for the mass of the people than on what they are doing for themselves. Of the lighter articles in the number, the one on "Lewes's Life of Goethe" and that on "Beaumarchais and his Times" are the two best.

The only one of the four Quarterlies, now before us, which takes up the great political question of the day is the *National Review*. In an article on "The Austrian Peace," as it is called, the hopes and fears of those who praise and those who condemn the present settlement of the quarrel with Russia, are discussed by one who seems much more inclined to fear the worst than hope for anything good from a peace promoted as this has been. "Characteristics of Goethe" is a masterly analysis of Mr. Lewes's biography of the German artist,—for he really was more of a mere artist than a philosopher or a poet. The following passage will show that the writer has detected the cardinal defect in Goethe's nature.

"He has been held up as the wisest man of modern days, and by some half-worshiped as a demigod. And, in truth, his was a light and spacious mind. Let us grant that he was the wisest man of modern days who ever lacked the wisdom of a child; the deepest who never knew what it was to kneel in the dust with bowed head and broken heart. And he was a demigod, if a demigod be a being at once more and less than ordinary men, having a power which few attain, and owing it in part to a deficiency in qualities in which few are so deficient; a being who puts forth a stronger fascination over the earth because expending none of his strength in yearnings towards heaven. In this sense Goethe was a demigod:

> "He took the suffering human race;
> He read each wound, each weakness clear;
> He struck his finger on the place,
> And said, 'Thou ailest here, and here.'

He knew all symptoms of disease, a few alleviations, no remedies. The earth was eloquent to him, but the skies were silent. Next to Luther he was the greatest of the Germans: next—but what a gulph between! 'Adequate to himself,' was written on that broad calm forehead; and therefore men thronged eagerly about him to learn the incommunicable secret. It was not told, and will not be told. For man it is a weary way to God, but a wearier far to any demigod."

The article on Mr. Macaulay is by far the ablest and most searching criticism we have seen on the subject. In the main, the writer seems to be praising the brilliant essayist, yet every now and then a remark occurs from which we infer that he would like him much better as an historian if he were not so much of a doctrinaire. The impression left on the mind is that here is a writer who can weigh and gauge Macaulay's intellect much better than Macaulay could take the intellectual measure of his reviewer. "The Political Tendencies of America" is well worth special notice, had our limits permitted: we can only direct attention to it as a thoughtful examination of the actual state of things in the United States, giving rise to very ominous reflections.

The *New Quarterly Review*, which has reached its 18th number, does not rank itself, apparently, among the other trimestrial periodicals. Instead of elaborate articles on current literary and political topics, it aims mainly at giving a "digest of current literature." One article in the present number—"The Military Forces and Finances of Russia, Austria, Prussia, Turkey, France, and England, by John MacGregor, Esq., M.P."—is an exception. The Member for Glasgow is not very felicitous in his mode of marshalling facts and figures: while he has gathered together a good deal of material, he leaves to the reader the more important task of selection and arrangement.

M. De Bazancourt's Narrative of the Campaign in the Crimea has obtained some notice by the English press, but the clever dissection of it in *Blackwood's Magazine* is likely to cause the work to be much more spoken of than it has been hitherto. The writer is evidently well up in recent military affairs—"we will yield," he says, "to no Frenchman living in accurate knowledge of the operations of the English army"; and the mode in which he follows the Baron through his narrative, pointing out his errors and supplying his deficiencies, proves that this is no empty boast. "War and Woodcraft" is a pleasant epistle from Tlepolemus, on a subject which that writer has touched upon before—the importance of cultivating and preserving a martial spirit in the people of this country. He contends that it is among our sportsmen—that class

against whom Carlyle launches his bitterest sarcasms, as mere "preservers of game"—that the martial spirit of this country almost exclusively resides. In a pleasant bantering style, he defends the science of wooderaft from the charges brought against it by sentimentalists and utilitarians, and proves from Xenophon's treatise on the subject, that a thorough sportsman must not only be a good soldier but a good citizen in every respect. "The Indian Civil Service" makes out a strong case against the new regulations for the examination of candidates. "The Scot Abroad" brings out some curious information relating to a numerous class of learned Scotchmen who have spent their lives on the Continent in bygone centuries. The article on "The Laws concerning Women" is an able piece of special-pleading in favour of leaving things as they are. What the writer says is true enough: many of the worst evils connected with married life are incurable by any process of legislation—therein the patients must minister to themselves. But, after all that has been or that may be said on this side, the question still recurs, are there not evils arising from the present state of the laws relating to women which *might* be remedied by judicious legislation?

"Friends in Council Abroad" has given place in this month's *Fraser* to a brace of "Imaginary Conversations" by Walter Savage Landor. The first is between Alfieri and Metastasio, on Italy, on Methodism as it manifested itself about the time of Alfieri's visit to England, and on a great many other topics, which are treated in Landor's characteristic style. Speaking of the unhappy condition of Italy at that time, he says, with reference to certain theological disputes—"We shall presently have more than shadows to contend against: the monkey-tiger is about to spring over the Alps." "The Table-Talk of Samuel Rogers" furnishes a splenetic contributor with an excuse for making some illnatured remarks on the late poet. The writer seems dubious as to whether Rogers had any claim to the name of poet; indeed, he questions whether anything better can be said of him than that he gave "excellent breakfasts and more recherché dinners to the amateur literati of distinction, who were exceedingly happy to partake of his cookery and wine." There is a pretty general impression that Rogers was a kindhearted man, who performed many generous acts in the course of his long life. This appears to have been a mistake, however: we are now told, that although "he could now and then play the patron with striking effect," "tradition has not recorded many acts of striking generosity and munificence upon his part." Those who knew Mr. Rogers most intimately will know how to appreciate such criticism as this.

The *Dublin University Magazine*, which has once more become "Irish property," as we are informed, opens this month with a very good article on "Kars," in which the conduct of our Government is rather severely handled. A lively notice of the "Memoirs of Mrs. Fitzherbert" winds up with some reflections on the Royal Marriage-law. The writer has not altogether made up his mind as to whether the law ought to be repealed or altered; but he holds, that "were the younger branches of the Royal House permitted to intermarry with our nobility, the throne would become nationalized, and would rest on much wider and deeper foundations than it does at present." The causes which have led to the deterioration of the military character in this country are carefully analyzed in an article on "The Gentleman-Soldier"; which contains some excellent hints touching various measures for improving the condition and elevating the social status of the private soldier.

The best article in the *United Service Magazine* this month is a description of "The Charge of the British Cavalry at Balaklava, by one who was in it." After all that has been said and written on that terrible exhibition of English bravery, this narrative of the affair will still be read with interest. An article on General Walker, and his successful raid in Nicaragua, calls attention to the fact, that the United States Government, while denouncing the "lawless irruptions" into that republic, seems unable to prevent them, and suggests that "Great Britain should lend a little assistance in checking the lawless proceedings."

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Books.

It is curious to note how frequently publications run in classes: sometimes travels predominate, sometimes books in the belles lettres, and so on. The present tendency is towards history, or to works which bear in some measure on actual affairs. Last week the bulk of publications ran in that direction, and so it is again this week. M. Guizot's "History of Richard Cromwell and the Restoration"—a curious subject, worthy of full development—is accompanied and illustrated by numerous original letters from the French Ambassador in London, and from Cardinal Mazarin, as well as by some Spanish documents. The fourth and fifth volumes of Mr. Merivale's able "History of the Romans under the Empire" may be said to reach the real subject; the volumes begin with the reign of Augustus and end with the accession of Nero. The second volume of Tegoborski's "Productive Forces of Russia" has less breadth and interest in its subjects than the first volume, with less present accuracy in its facts. This is owing to the nature of the case. The former volume dealt with the population, the physical features of the country, its agriculture and natural productions; the last two liable to be greatly affected by the war, no doubt, but in a country like Russia their broad features must remain the same. In commerce and manufactures, which the present volume exhibits, the changes caused by the war are so great, that not only are the particular facts superseded but great changes have probably taken place in the trades themselves. Unless for special reference, or the purposes of the statist, the interest of this volume will probably consist chiefly in the incidental pictures of Russian modes of carrying on industrial occupations which the economical remarks of the author suggest.

The "Colonial Constitutions" of Mr. Arthur Mills also seems to us rather a book for the special inquirer, or persons connected with the Colonies, than for the public at large. In a general introduction, Mr. Mills compares the ancient and modern systems of founding colonies, discusses the question of their utility or inutility, and the principles of governing them: he also gives a brief account of the history of all our dependencies, including India and the Ionian Islands; but the space to which he has confined himself renders his discussions and narratives somewhat curt. The feature of the book is the titles of the Acts of Parliament, Orders in Council, and other documents relating to each dependency, exhibited in chronological order. It is true that these titles only indicate the subject; but they do that sufficiently to guide the inquirer, and often throw a curious light upon facts and opinions. Witness these two Orders in Council, from a very early period of the East India Company.

"1617. (March 20.) For delivering John Browne, now a prisoner in the Castle of Canterbury, convicted of felony (but not of murder, burglary, or witchcraft), unto Sir J. Smith, Knight, Governor of the East India Company, to be sent beyond the seas to the East Indies.

"1618. (May 28.) Ordering the East India Company to advance, in connexion with the Muscovy Company, a loan of 100,000 roubles to the Emperor of Russia."

For purposes of historical research or business inquiry the volume will be found useful if not indispensable.

There is not much, we fear, of human affairs in the two fictions, or a great deal of the available in the "Primary Principles of Reasoning." A book on formal logic—that is, an exposition of the modes of reasoning from premises to a conclusion, without reference to the truth of the premises—is hardly necessary. Perhaps the same may be said of an argument in favour of or against the Aristotelian system, on which the volume of Mr. Kidd seems to be mainly based, though a good deal of the formalism of the schools is mixed up with the arguments. The "Primary Principles of Reasoning" might be described as a discussion in favour of formal logic, with an exposition of its leading principles in the course of the arguments.

History of Richard Cromwell and the Restoration of Charles II. By M. Guizot. Translated by Andrew R. Scoble. In two volumes.

A History of the Romans under the Empire. By Charles Merivale, B.D., late Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. Volumes IV. and V.

Commentaries on the Productive Forces of Russia. By M. L. De Tegoborski, Privy Councillor and Member of the Council of the Russian Empire. In three volumes. Volume II.

Colonial Constitutions: an Outline of the Constitutional History and existing Government of the British Dependencies; with Schedules of the Orders in Council, Statutes, and Parliamentary Documents relating to each Dependency. By Arthur Mills, Esq., of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-law.

A Delineation of the Primary Principles of Reasoning. By Robert Boyd Kidd, B.A., Perpetual Curate of Butley, Suffolk.

Beyminstre. By the Author of "Lena," &c. In three volumes.

The Old Vicarage: a Novel. By Mrs. Hubback, Authoress of "The Wife's Sister," &c. In three volumes.

Peace! What I have done to promote it. By the Author of "Kazan," &c.—This is a sort of autobiography of Mr. E. T. Turnerelli, the author of two lately-published books on Russia and the virtues of the Imperial Family. Stripped of the digressions and somewhat ponderous pleasantry of the author, the events of his life are soon told. He is the son of the celebrated sculptor; and, quarrelling with his father on the old gentleman's second marriage, he went to Russia to seek his fortune. That he practised drawing we know from his work on Kazan; and he states that he rose from the fourteenth to the eighth grade of official nobility; but the exact nature of his public employment we do not perceive. However, his health induced him to return to England on leave of absence; meanwhile the war threatened—he could not get his leave extended—so he gave up his place and the prospect of a pension, and offered his services to his country. Unsuccessful in that direction, he published his *Kazan*, and *What I Know of the late Emperor Nicholas;* and delivered, it seems with acceptance, a series of lectures on Russia and in favour of peace. He was contemplating a trip to America to enlighten Jonathan; but peace will induce him to return to Russia, and this book is a sort of avant-courier.

Were commodities the subject matter instead of the adventures of Mr. Turnerelli, the volume might be considered an announcement. However, it is not without interest as a picture of a buoyant spirit pushing along with good-nature and in good faith. His interviews with our Ministers—which, by the by, seem to have been granted readily—are characteristic. Here is Lord John.

"On the day appointed, 'The Friend to Russia,' as I was called, betook himself to his Lordship's house. I shall not easily forget that interview. Lord John rose when I entered—desired me to take a seat, which I did—and then reseating himself, he took up a newspaper, raised it as far as his chin, and requested me in a rather blunt and cool manner, methought, to inform him of the object of my visit. That newspaper showed me very clearly what was passing in Lord John's mind; and I saw that if aught in my tale should happen to displease his Lordship, that threatening paper would have risen and risen by degrees, until the nose, cheeks, and at last the very eyes of the statesman, would have been hidden from me. This would have been an unmistakeable sign that his Lordship would be better pleased with my absence than my presence. It was a critical moment for a poor individual, already so much embarrassed as I was: but somehow I felt, Princess, that an honest heart need not fear to tell its tale boldly and undisguisedly, and I did so with mine."

Lord Aberdeen is equally well delineated.

"I wrote to his Lordship as I had done to Lord John Russell, and received on the very next day the following answer to my epistle—'Lord Aberdeen presents his compliments to Mr. Turnerelli, and will be happy to see him at Argyll House tomorrow (Thursday) at twelve o'clock.'

"At twelve o'clock precisely, I made my way to Argyll House, the residence of the Earl. The expression which existed on his features was very different to that which had marked, on my first entrance, those of Lord John; it was an expression of the greatest benignity, kindness, and confidence. On entering the studio, the Earl pointed in a very friendly manner

to a cozy arm-chair, and requested me to seat myself in it. Before I did so, I asked to be permitted to thank his Lordship for the prompt and kind way in which he had accorded me this interview.

"'Mr. Turnerelli,' said the Earl, 'you are not quite a stranger to me. I was well acquainted with your father: you will find, if you look around, works that are doubtless familiar to you. Pray sit down.'

"While seating myself, I gazed around, and found several busts of eminent men executed by my father. Encouraged by this kind accueil, I related to the Earl the position I was in, and the wish I had to find some employment in my own country. His Lordship promised to speak in my favour to the Earl of Clarendon, who, he thought, could serve me better than anybody else. I stated that I should be equally willing to accept a place in the Library or MSS. department of the British Museum. His Lordship promised to write in my favour to the authorities of that institution; and sent me, a day or two after, a letter written in his own handwriting, and as follows—'Lord Aberdeen begs to enclose a note of recommendation to Mr. Panizzi, at the British Museum, which he hopes may be useful to Mr. Turnerelli.'"

Many years ago, Lord Palmerston had promised old Turnerelli that he would befriend his son; and our adventurer now addressed him. The reply came through a secretary; and, condensed, it amounted to "no go." Mr. Turnerelli, however, expresses himself as better satisfied with this plainness than with the promises of many people who wasted his time by encouraging hopes they could not realize.

The Tricks of Trade in the Adulteration of Food and Physic.—A compilation whose style of mind is pretty well indicated by its title. The matter consists of an account of the chemical properties of the different substances which are usually adulterated, the deleterious articles used in the adulteration, and the readiest tests for detection. All this information is easily collected; the facts seem fairly stated, though the animus is that of popular opinion just now. In fact, the adulteration, exaggerated in many cases as regards its mischievous effects, is induced by the general rage for cheapness. People can have a genuine article if they choose to pay for it: but when they buy—gin, for instance, of the publican for less than the distiller charges, it must evidently be adulterated. Some articles cost the dealer trouble, if not appreciable expense, to adulterate merely to meet a general prejudice,—as the bright green of preserved fruits, or the red colour of potted meats. The most decided adulteration is in beverages; and that is perhaps without remedy, as long as the demand so far exceeds the genuine supply.

An Inquiry into Speculative Philosophy, by A. Vera.—This little work, which is in English, was written before the publication of "L'Introduction à la Philosophie de Hegel" (by the same author) as a contribution to some periodical; but no editor was found willing to avail himself of the proffered wisdom. It is therefore published as a separate volume, and will doubtless be acceptable to those who recognize in M. Vera the best non-German expositor of Hegelian doctrine. His object is to prove the insufficiency of the inductive method for the wants of metaphysical science, and to explain how slight is the service rendered to philosophy by the most recent speculators of this island.

The Whist-Player. By Lieutenant-Colonel B****.—A pleasant, and what is more to the purpose, a plain exposition of the received laws, leading principles, and best general practice of short whist. Brevity and clearness, with a pervading dash of pleasantry, are the literary traits; but the most striking feature of the book is illustration, by reduced drawings of the cards themselves. Instead of keeping a pack by his side and searching out the particular cards to illustrate a peculiar direction, the student has them under his eye, printed in colours.

Universal Writing and Printing with Ordinary Letters. By Alexander J. Ellis, B.A.—The expressed object of this publication is to enable missionaries, travellers, philologists, &c., to convey every variety of sound in ordinary types by means of an arranged alphabet. It is possible that the end may be attained by a person who has mastered the system of Mr. Ellis, but we doubt whether the printing could be read by persons who had not.

Though not exactly a reprint, as it now appears for the first time, the second volume of Dugald Stewart's Political Economy may fall under this head, as forming the ninth volume of the Professor's Collected Works; an estimate of which we gave a month ago. The third edition of the translation of "Sakoontalá, or the Lost Ring," is of a plainer kind than the luxurious volume that we noticed last autumn, as well for its illustration as its literature. Mr. Singer's new edition of Shakspere's Dramatic Works progresses regularly: the fourth volume contains the "Winter's Tale," and "Pericles," and begins the Historical Plays with "King John" and "Richard the Second." "Lion-Hunting and Sporting Life in Algeria" is another translation of the African adventures of Jules Gérard, professing to be an "international copyright edition."

Lectures on Political Economy. Now first published. Volume II. To which is prefixed, Part Third of the Outlines of Moral Philosophy. By Dugald Stewart, Esq. Edited by Sir William Hamilton, Bart. (The Collected Works of Dugald Stewart, Volume IX.)

Sakoontalá, or the Lost Ring: an Indian Drama. Translated into English Prose and Verse, from the Sanskrit of Kálidása, by Monier Williams, M.A., Professor of Sanskrit at the East India College, Haileybury, formerly Boden Scholar in the University of Oxford. Third edition.

The Dramatic Works of William Shakespeare. The Text carefully revised, with Notes, by Samuel Weller Singer, F.S.A. The Life of the Poet, and Critical Essays on the Plays, by William Watkiss Lloyd, M.R.S.L. Volume IV.

Lion-Hunting and Sporting Life in Algeria. By Jules Gérard, the Lion-Killer, Lieutenant of the Third Regiment of Spahis. With twelve Illustrations by Gustave Doré.

The Art of Land-Surveying, explained by short and easy Rules, particularly adapted for the use of Schools, and so arranged as to be also useful to Farmers, Stewards, and others. By John Quested, Surveyor, Author of "The Schoolboy's Steps to Mathematics," &c. Third edition.

Hardwicke's Shilling Baronetage and Knightage, 1856, second year of publication: containing alphabetical list of the Baronets and Knights of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Great Britain, and date of the Creation of each title, &c. Compiled by Edward Walford, Esq., M.A., &c.

NEW SERIAL.

Old Times: a Retrospect of an Irish Artist. By William Wills.—It is not easy to judge of a story from the opening chapters. There is promise of variety and character in the first part of *Old Times*; and it closes with an indication of power from a feature of some freshness—jealousy on the part of a kind worthy man of sixty, married to a selfish if not a heartless woman of twenty.

THE CENTRAL AMERICAN QUESTION: MOSQUITIA *v.* NICARAGUA.

As that part of the Central American question relating to the Mosquito territory has all at once become the most prominent feature in the case, the Filibuster Government of Nicaragua having issued a decree annexing the debateable land on the pretence that it forms a portion of the Nicaraguan republic, it is worth while to inquire what grounds there are for the claim which General Walker and his confederates have set up. Unfortunately for those who would like to see the question settled incontestibly, the evidence on both sides is of a somewhat unsatisfactory nature; the dispute as to the independence of the Mosquitos having lasted for the last two centuries.

Bryan Edwards, in a memorial laid before the English Government in 1773, entitled "Some Account of the British Settlements on the Mosquito Shore," after adverting to the voluntary allegiance tendered by the inhabitants of that coast about the time of the conquest of Jamaica, makes the following statement regarding the Mosquito Indians.

"Their submission to the sovereignty of Great Britain was not only solemnly renewed by the Mosquito King in person to the Duke of Albemarle, (son of General Monk,) when Governor of Jamaica, but it is a fact not to be denied, that they have made it a point to give to almost every succeeding Governor fresh assurances of their allegiance; in consequence of which, Great Britain did for upwards of a century afford them protection, and has for many years constantly distributed annual presents among their native chieftains. In the year 1741, a regular establishment of troops, under the command of a Superintendent, was fixed there; and an administration of justice by magistrates and courts of quarter-session was constituted in 1744, which continued to subsist under the auspices of Government till the last peace, (the peace of Paris in 1763); when the troops and military stores were removed, and orders given to dismount the guns and dismantle the fortifications which our people had built for the protection of themselves and of their faithful friendly allies the native Indians, who were now to be exposed to the implacable resentment of a power from which they had everything to dread, and by which, but for our protection, they had long ago been exterminated. These impolitic orders were evidently grounded on a most unaccountable notion that the Mosquito shore was part of the Bay of Honduras; an astonishing instance of inattention, to call it by no harsher name. As it is no part of the Bay of Honduras, so neither is it any part of the territory of Spain in that part of the world; for, admitting the Spanish claim of prediscovery of the whole of this coast, aided as it was by the benevolent grant of Pope Alexander VI., and admitting even (which I have shown is not the case) that the subjects of England had no intercourse with the country previous to the conclusion of the American treaty in 1670, will it be pretended in a nation so enlightened as ours, that circumstances of this kind are sufficient to justify the pretensions of the Spanish Crown to enslave a free people, who, if not the subjects of Great Britain, are, by the laws of God and the unerring dictates of human nature, free at this day to yield allegiance to what power they please?"

In corroboration of this statement, we find the "Mosquitos" described, in Jeffrey's "Spanish West Indies," published in 1762, as "a small nation of Indians never conquered by the Spaniards; the country being so situated as to render any attempts against them impracticable: for they are surrounded on all sides by land with morasses or inaccessible mountains, and by sea with shoals and rocks; besides, they have such an implacable hatred to the Spaniards that they would never have any correspondence with them." It must be remembered, however, that war with Spain was declared in 1762, the year in which this was written; so that some deduction must be made from the statement regarding the "implacable hatred" which the Mosquitos bore to Spain. In 1785, the King of Spain, writing to the Governor-General of Guatemala, as Central America was then called, refers to the Mosquitos in the following terms, as having submitted to the Spanish yoke.

"The Mosquito Indians, situated in the provinces of Guatemala, have been vassals of the Crown of Spain since the conquest and reduction of these dominions; and, notwithstanding that some time since they abetted certain adventurers in making transitory establishments among them, they have since repeatedly solicited to return to the Spanish dominion, and, finally, the reconciliation which they asked for has been benignantly conceded."

In 1786 a treaty was concluded between Great Britain and Spain; by the 14th article of which "his Catholic Majesty, prompted solely by motives of humanity, promises to the King of England, that he will not exercise any act of severity against the Mosquitos, inhabiting in part the countries which are to be evacuated by virtue of the present convention, on account of the connexions which may have subsisted between the said Indians and the English." By another clause in the same treaty, the King of Spain grants to England the privilege of cutting logwood and mahogany in the Honduras territory, but jealously guards against any act on the part of the English which may interfere with the sovereign rights of Spain.

But Greytown is the most important part of the territory in dispute; and it was constituted a port of entry, by the Spanish Government, in 1796, under its ancient name of San Juan de Nicaragua. This, however, is not deemed of much importance by Lord Palmerston; who speaks in the most confident terms as to the right of the Mosquitos to Greytown having existed from a very remote period. In a despatch to Mr. Castillon, Minister of Nicaragua, dated 16th July 1849, his Lordship says—

"If it be established, as it clearly is, that the Mosquito territory is, and for centuries has been, a separate state, distinct from the American possessions of Spain, there cannot be a moment's doubt that the port of Greytown, at the mouth of the river San Juan, belongs to and forms part of the Mosquito territory. This can be shown by quotations from numerous authorities, public and private, official and literary; and so far from there being any just ground to doubt that the Southern extremity of the Mosquito territory includes the port of Greytown, there are, on the contrary, good and substantial reasons which can be alleged to show that the rights of the Mosquitos extend Southward as far as the Boca del Toro, at which place the King of Mosquito has at various times exercised rights by levying duties."

Nothing can be more positive than this statement. The only drawback is the want of information as to where the "numerous authorities" are to be found on which Lord Palmerston founds the Mosquito claim. It is, however, satisfactory to find from Lord John Russell's letter to Mr. Crampton, dated 19th January 1853, that there is no disposition on the part of the Foreign Office to press the King of Mosquito's claim to an undue length. Whatever may have been the state of affairs in former times—respecting which there is room for wide diversities of opinion—

his Lordship recognizes the fact that the King of Mosquito no longer exercises any real sovereignty at Greytown, "but that the Committee of Europeans and Americans carry on the Government at that port." What he suggested, with a view to the settlement of the question, was that Greytown should be declared a free and independent port, under the joint protection of Great Britain and the United States.

The history of Greytown during the last two years has been rather an interesting one. The first event of much importance was the bombardment of the town by an American man-of-war, in the summer of 1854. The early accounts of this extraordinary outrage represented it as the act of Captain Hollins, of the Cyane ship-of-war, who was said to have acted on his own responsibility. From what has transpired within the last few months, however, it appears that the affair was deliberately planned by certain parties in New York, with a view to promote the aggressive schemes of a rival transit company. A letter from Mr. White, of the New York and California Steam-ship line, viâ Nicaragua, to Mr. Fabens, the United States Consul at Greytown, has appeared in the New York papers, in which the destruction of the place is foretold on June 16, nearly a month before it happened. After stating that Captain Hollins has received instructions to show no mercy, Mr. White says, "If the scoundrels are soundly punished, we can take possession, and build it up as a business place, put in our own officers, transfer the jurisdiction, and you know the rest." A more audacious case of filibusterism than this would be hard to find.

A few weeks after Mr. White had sent off his programme to Mr. Consul Fabens, the Cyane ship-of-war made its appearance before Greytown. On the 13th of July, Captain Hollins sent a message to the authorities, demanding the payment of 24,000 dollars as compensation for an insult which Mr. Borland, the Minister of the United States, had received during a riot, partly caused by the said Minister taking the part of a murderer. Only a few hours were allowed for the people of Greytown to make up their minds. At the end of that time, the brave Captain Hollins opened fire upon the defenceless town, which was speedily laid in ruins. The whole of the valuable property in the warehouses of this port—the emporium between Nicaragua and Costa Rica—was destroyed by the flames. The French, English, Spanish, German, and American merchants, have applied to the United States Government for compensation; but there does not seem much readiness to take up their case. President Pierce, in his last message but one, spoke of the affair at Greytown as if it had been a just punishment inflicted on what he chose to call a camp of savages. M. Barruel de Beauvert, as representative of the French residents in Greytown, presented a memorial to Congress last November, in which he gave a plain narrative of the outrage committed on the defenceless inhabitants, and, after adverting to the destruction of property, expressed his confident belief that the American Government "will avow the mistake into which it has been so fatally plunged," and "will remove by an act of complete and general appropriation that dark shadow which, since the 13th of July 1854, has obscured the stars of the Union." But the proposal to vote a million to the sufferers at Greytown is not likely to meet with much favour, seeing that it would necessarily provoke a discussion in Congress on the secret policy which led to the disgraceful transaction; a result which neither the one party nor the other seems willing to risk.

The next event in the history of Greytown was the arrival of an American adventurer named Colonel Kinney, in August 1855, as the head of an extensive colonization scheme. Kinney is said to have been very successful in projects of a similar kind in Texas, and great hopes were therefore entertained of what he would do in Central America. According to the American papers, he has completed the purchase of a region large enough for a principality. One part of it, for which he is said to have given 100,000 dollars, consists of a portion of the Mosquito territory, extending along the sea-coast 350 miles. Having cast in his lot with the people of Greytown, of which he has been appointed Governor, he has undertaken the advocacy of the claims of the sufferers by the bombardment, in a weekly newspaper called the *Central American*.

Since the establishment of General Walker in Nicaragua, which took place a few weeks after Colonel Kinney's arrival in Greytown, several attempts have been made by the latter to come to an amicable arrangement with the Filibuster Government. The last of these, of which we have any account, was in the early part of February, when Colonel Kinney paid a visit to Granada, and had an interview with President Rivas, who seemed to look favourably upon his proposal. General Walker, however, would not listen to any proposition founded on the claims of the Mosquito people to an independent existence. He contended that the territory held by Kinney belonged to Nicaragua, and that his claim was an act of rebellion against the sovereign republic. Kinney, in reply, said he had expended 100,000 dollars on the land. It was his by right of purchase, and it had cost him too much for him to surrender it quietly. Walker still insisted that the claim was void, as the land belonged to Nicaragua; and thus the interview ended. Next day Colonel Kinney was ordered off to San Juan del Norte, (Greytown,) by command of General Walker.

The following decree relating to the disputed territory was published by the Nicaraguan Government a few hours before the arrival of Colonel Kinney in Granada.

"The Supreme Executive Power to the People—

"The title of Nicaragua to the territory called Mosquito, including the port of San Juan del Norte, being notorious and incontestible; and whereas H. L. Kinney pretends, in virtue of a purchase from Sheppard and Haley, to be owner of the said territories the property of this Republic; in the exercise of its faculties decrees—

"The rights which the said Kinney pretends to claim in and upon the said territory are null, void, and of no effect, the same being the property of the Republic of Nicaragua; and, consequently, every alienation made by the said Kinney is also void.

"Art. 2. The said Sheppard, Haley, and Kinney, and all other persons claiming this unlawful acquisition, are declared guilty of an attempt against the integrity of Central America.

"Art. 3. The Minister of Relations and the Interior is charged with the publication, execution, and fulfilment of this decree.

"Granada, Feb. 8, 1856. PATRICIO RIVAS."

Of course Colonel Kinney will not pay much heed to this decree unless the Filibuster Government can send an army to put it in force. In the *Central American* newspaper of March 3, a letter by him states that the grant of a portion of the Mosquito territory to Messrs. Haly and Sheppard, from whom he purchased the land he now holds, has been in existence since 1839, and has never been questioned by the Nicaraguan Government during all that time. If that republic could have established her claim to the land in question, he thinks she would not have allowed it to lie dormant till now.

Meanwhile, affairs are coming to a crisis with General Walker. The *Panama Herald* of March 5 states that the pay of his army of 800 men has been reduced from 100 to 25 dollars per month. Even at this reduced rate, he is said to be at a loss for funds to meet his weekly expenditure; at least such is the explanation given by some of the papers for his having annulled the contract of the Accessory Transit Company, and thereby, for the time, interrupted the traffic across the Isthmus by the Nicaragua route. A company in San Francisco is said to have advanced a large sum to General Walker to carry on the game, with an understanding that he would give them an equivalent. Those funds are now exhausted, we are told; and his only chance of obtaining a new loan is by selling the right of transit to a new company.

The English residents at Greytown, feeling rather uneasy at the present aspect of affairs, have applied to the British Government for protection; and the latest accounts from the West Indies are, that the British ship-of-war Powerful had arrived at Havana, with orders to unite all the English and French forces in the Mexican Gulf and start immediately for Nicaragua.

TRADE AND NAVIGATION ACCOUNTS

FOR THE MONTH AND TWO MONTHS ENDED 29TH FEBRUARY 1856 AND 1855.

Exports.	Month ended Feb. 29, 1856. £	Month ended Feb. 29, 1855. £	Two Months ended Feb. 29, 1856. £	Two Months ended Feb. 29, 1855. £
Declared value of British Manufactures, &c.	7,725,747	5,032,416	15,700,533	11,497,212
Of these exports the following are items:				
Cotton Manufactures: entered per yard	1,953,467	1,701,618	4,000,929	3,820,839
Cotton Yarn	658,696	249,085	1,237,508	652,897
Haberdashery and Millinery	252,411	168,782	540,422	327,706
Hardwares and Cutlery	220,389	174,173	490,764	404,528
Linen Manufactures: entered per yard	319,705	248,436	689,472	511,481
Linen Yarn	100,037	33,625	193,536	90,664
Machinery and Mill-work: Steam-Engines	67,194	66,747	124,750	120,598
Ditto: of all other sorts	105,045	66,859	197,285	124,773
Iron: Pig	59,201	44,935	113,621	99,764
Bar, Bolt, and Rod	383,741	183,260	750,979	418,955
Wrought of all sorts	256,273	101,162	468,958	258,691
Copper: Sheet, Nails, &c.	133,230	49,468	247,285	137,385
Silk: Manufactures and Yarn	192,257	91,946	376,636	184,215
Woollens: entered by the piece	200,759	167,179	439,412	327,457
entered by the yard	210,999	131,264	474,959	287,161
Worsted stuffs	196,776	97,685	398,085	212,219
Woollen yarn	176,305	37,153	372,868	113,673

Imports. The following are items:	Month ended Feb. 29, 1856.	Month ended Feb. 29, 1855.	Two Months ended Feb. 29, 1856.	Two Months ended Feb. 29, 1855.
Animals: Oxen and Bulls number	1,924	1,728	3,413	4,686
Cows "	103	245	257	986
Calves "	403	793	885	1,631
Sheep "	325	2,042	2,495	5,812
Lambs "	—	—	—	—
Swine "	79	9	85	21
Corn: Wheat qrs.	194,111	73,221	401,711	374,700
Barley "	12,370	5,042	34,823	49,885
Oats "	52,231	3,379	123,117	99,193
Peas and Beans "	32,967	19,981	90,663	66,484
Indian Corn or Maize "	133,806	77,420	291,429	138,195
Wheat-meal or Flour cwts.	224,607	104,974	412,829	235,595
Provisions: Bacon "	8,466	13,636	8,503	14,240
Beef: salted "	21,939	12,394	28,586	24,323
Pork: salted "	5,940	14,087	8,595	22,471
Butter "	29,724	18,259	55,133	43,413
Cheese "	25,664	7,650	39,568	27,739
Eggs number	8,437,400	4,650,800	13,821,200	9,401,260
Coffee lbs.	1,895,538	595,641	2,173,951	2,275,674
Tea "	10,395,024	2,155,341	12,519,838	4,781,931
Sugar: Unrefined cwts.	428,704	112,383	596,247	215,830
Refined (Foreign) "	19,615	2,569	42,674	13,357
Wine gallons.	231,482	204,425	375,358	491,698
Cotton: Raw cwts.	783,644	302,351	1,072,926	480,986
Flax: Undressed "	38,411	15,428	56,869	34,093
Wool: Sheep and Lambs' lbs.	3,024,853	853,726	4,339,712	2,124,738
Home Consumption: (entered for)				
Coffee lbs.	2,715,759	3,233,449	6,853,749	6,657,708
Tea "	4,623,273	4,716,605	14,047,413	9,913,386
Sugar: Unrefined cwts.	373,213	551,940	692,670	1,223,997
Wine gallons.	580,578	424,171	1,190,874	945,422

Shipping.	Sailing and Steam Vessels—Month ended Feb. 29, 1856. Vessels.	Tonnage.	1855. Vessels.	Tonnage.
Foreign Trade: Inwards.	1,172	402,029	1,299	443,649
Outwards	2,374	604,304	1,344	351,884
Coasting Trade: Inwards.	9,451	924,963	7,177	779,098
Outwards	10,457	992,677	7,755	781,412

The accounts just published for the month ending the 29th February, and from which the preceding table is compiled, exhibit a striking increase in the declared value of the exports compared with the corresponding period of 1855. The increase on the month is nearly 2,700,000*l.*; and for the first two months of the year (January and February) the excess is 4,200,000*l.* This restores matters to the position in which they stood at the beginning of 1854, such difference as exists being in favour of the present year.

Compared with the two months of 1855, the largest increase occurs under the heads of cottons and cotton yarns (800,000*l.*), linens and linen yarns (300,000*l.*), iron (500,000*l.*), copper (100,000*l.*), silks (200,000*l.*), woollens (750,000*l.*)

The imports for the month show a large increase in bread-stuffs, particularly wheat and wheat-flour. Eggs are doubled. Tea has increased fivefold, coffee and sugar threefold; raw cotton is more than doubled, and sheep's wool is nearly quadrupled.

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